



MARCH MADNESS



Trump blames D.C., as military parade plans unravel over costs

In this Jan. 20, 2017 file photo, military units march in the inaugural parade from the U.S. Capitol, Friday, Jan. 20, 2017, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR** and
CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The cancellation of President Donald Trump's Veterans Day parade came swiftly

when senior White House and Pentagon leaders saw the estimated \$92 million price tag play out in public, setting off a chaotic volley of tweets and accusations between the president and

the mayor of the nation's capital. The drama that unfolded Thursday and Friday also highlighted, not for the first time, a disconnect between the Pentagon and the White

House when it comes to turning some of Trump's more mercurial ideas into reality. While Defense Secretary Jim Mattis dismissed the price estimate for

the parade as fiction — likening the report of it as the work of someone who had been smoking pot — Trump wasn't denying the projected costs.

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U.S. ends Syria stabilization funding, cites more allied cash

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is ending funding for Syria stabilization projects as it moves to extricate the U.S. from the conflict, citing increased contributions from anti-Islamic State coalition partners.

The State Department said it had notified Congress on Friday that it would not spend some \$230 million that had been planned for Syria programs and would instead shift that money to other areas. Most of that money, initially pledged by former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in February, had been on hold and under review since he was fired in March. A small fraction of that amount was released in June.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the cut, which was authorized by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and does not include humanitarian aid funds, will be more than offset by an additional \$300 million pledged by coalition partners, including \$100 million that Saudi Arabia announced it had contributed late Thursday.

"As a result of key partner contributions by coalition members, Secretary Pompeo has authorized the Department of State to redirect approximately \$230 million in stabilization funds for Syria which have been under review," she said in



In this photo taken on Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018, a woman walks past the remnants of destroyed buildings in the city of Aleppo, Syria.

a statement. Nauert said Pompeo's decision took into account the White House's desire to increase burden sharing with allies. The funds will be redirected "to support other key foreign policy priorities," said Nauert, who along with other officials rejected suggestions that the elimination of the funds showed diminishing U.S. interest in Syria.

Nauert, along with David Satterfield, the acting assistant secretary of state for the Middle East, and Brett McGurk, the special envoy for the anti-IS coalition, told reporters on a conference call that the U.S. would remain active in Syria until the

Islamic State has been defeated.

"This decision does not represent any lessening of U.S. commitment to our strategic goals in Syria," Nauert said.

Still, the move was seen as a sign the administration is heeding Trump's demand to end U.S. involvement in Syria and reduce its commitment there.

Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, denounced what he said amounted to Trump "sprinting down the path of abdicating American leadership on the global stage."

"By ending U.S. contribu-

tions to stabilization efforts in the most vulnerable Syrian communities recently liberated from the terrors of ISIS, this message of U.S. retreat and abandonment is an embarrassment," he said. Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee concurred, calling the move "astonishingly shortsighted." In a tweet, they said it was an indication of a "lack of US leadership" that is "undercutting US interests in Syria and around the world."

In a bid to reassure its partners in the coalition against IS as well as opponents of Syrian President Bashar Assad, Pompeo appointed veteran diplomatic trou-

bles shooter, James Jeffrey, to be a special envoy for Syria, Nauert said.

Jeffrey, a former U.S. ambassador to Turkey, Iraq and Albania who also served as a deputy national security adviser to President George W. Bush, will hold the title of "special representative for Syrian engagement." Jeffrey, who retired in 2012, also holds the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service: career ambassador. He will lead U.S. efforts to reinvigorate a long-stalled peace effort known as the "Geneva Process" between Assad, the opposition and other countries with equities in Syria, Nauert said.

Yet Friday's funding cut is the latest Trump administration financial retreat from Syria. In May, the State Department announced that it had ended all funding for stabilization programs in Syria's northwest. IS militants have been almost entirely eliminated from that region, which is controlled by a hodgepodge of other extremist groups and government forces.

In June, the administration freed up a small portion — \$6.6 million — of the \$200 million that Tillerson had pledged in order to continue funding for the White Helmets, a Syrian civil defense organization, and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism, a U.N. agency that is investigating war crimes committed during the conflict. □

U.S. to send hospital ship to Colombia amid refugee crisis

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon is preparing to dispatch a hospital ship to Colombia and possibly other parts of South America to help relieve strain on health care systems overloaded by an influx of hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who have fled that crisis-racked nation, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Friday.

"It is absolutely a humanitarian mission," he told reporters returning with him

to Washington after a six-day tour of South America. Mattis would not say when the USNS Comfort would arrive off the coast of Colombia, but it apparently will not be in the next few weeks. Dana W. White, the chief Pentagon spokeswoman, said it would be "in the fall," but she would not be more specific.

As a result of a dire economic and health care situation, rising numbers of Venezuelans are joining

an exodus that has set off alarms across Latin America.

The United Nations said earlier this week that an estimated 2.3 million Venezuelans have fled the crisis-torn country as of June, mainly to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil.

Mattis said Colombian President Ivan Duque embraced the Comfort proposal during talks Friday morning in Bogota.

"They not only agreed in

principle, they gave details on how we might best craft the cruise through the region," Mattis said.

Some details of the plan for dispatching the Comfort from Norfolk, Virginia, have not yet been worked out, Mattis said. The ship may visit other South American countries also feeling effects of the refugee problem.

"We are going to go where the need is greatest," he said, but that will not in-

clude Venezuela. The Comfort has 12 fully-equipped operating rooms, a 1,000-bed hospital facility, digital radiological services, a medical laboratory, a pharmacy, an optometry lab, a CAT scan and two oxygen-producing plants. The ship also is equipped with a helicopter deck capable of landing large military helicopters. It has a side port that enables the crew to take on patients at sea. □



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MILITARY PARADE

Continued from Front

He was lashing out at Washington, D.C., politicians he claimed were to blame for the sky-high price.

"When asked to give us a price for holding a great celebratory military parade, they wanted a number so ridiculously high that I cancelled it. Never let someone hold you up!" Trump tweeted.

He held out hope of holding the parade next year instead, and said this year he would travel to Paris for events marking the centennial of the end of fighting in World War I, which falls on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. "Now we can buy some more jet fighters!" he added.

Despite Trump blaming municipal authorities for the high estimate, the bulk of the cost was the \$50 million Pentagon portion that would cover military aircraft, equipment, personnel and other support. The remaining \$42 million would cover costs borne by the city and other agencies and largely involved security costs.

The Republican president's finger-pointing set off a social media spat with D.C.'s Democratic Mayor Muriel Bowser. She shot back on Twitter Friday that she was the one who "finally got thru to the reality star in the White House with the realities (\$21.6M) of parades/events/demonstrations in Trump America (sad)."

District of Columbia officials called the price-gouging charge by Trump "patently false." A city official said the \$21.6 million estimate of the costs the city would incur was their "best stab at it," since they did not know what the exact route would be or how long it would last. The official, who wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of

anonymity, said there had been little interaction with the Pentagon and few details provided.

Trump decided he wanted a military parade in Washington after he attended France's Bastille Day celebration in the center of Paris last year. Several months later Trump praised the French parade, saying, "We're going to have to try and top it."

It was a demand that drew criticism not just from Trump's political opponents but some Republicans too. As the Pentagon began planning for the U.S. version, the cost became a politically charged issue — as did the prospect of streets in the nation's capital being churned up by tank treads.

According to officials familiar with the unfolding events, senior Pentagon leaders were briefed Wednesday about the parade costs. But officials said the estimates were still preliminary and so were not submitted to Mattis or Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private meetings and conversations.

When details came out publicly Thursday, senior White House officials, including Chief of Staff John Kelly, were angry about the \$92 million amount, which was more than triple early estimates of \$10 million to \$30 million by the White House budget director. It's not clear when Trump was told, but the order to cancel the parade came quickly and was made by the end of the work day. The Pentagon announced the decision just before 8 p.m.

Throughout the day, multiple U.S. officials had confirmed the \$92 million estimate that was put together by the interagency

parade planning group. And Pentagon officials did not push back or at any point suggest the reporting was wrong.

Still, when asked about the price Thursday evening, Mattis excoriated the media and said he had seen no such estimate.

"I'm not dignifying that number (\$92 million) with a reply. I would discount that, and anybody who said (that number), I'll almost guarantee you one thing: They probably said, 'I need to stay anonymous.' No kidding, because you look like an idiot. And No. 2, whoever wrote it needs to get better sources. I'll just leave it at that," Mattis told reporters traveling with him. He said that whoever leaked the number to the press was "probably smoking something that is legal in my state but not in most" — a reference to his home state of Washington, where marijuana use is legal.

Mattis' comments came hours after the estimate was made public, and not long after the cancellation decision was made — giving his staff plenty of time to ensure he was made aware of the planning estimate's accuracy.

One reason for the political sensitivity was that Trump himself had boasted that the cancellation of a major military exercise with South Korea amid easing tensions with North Korea would save the U.S. "a tremendous amount of money." The Pentagon later said the Korea drills, which typically take place every August, would have cost \$14 million — an amount dwarfed by the estimated cost of the parade.

The cancellation of those drills, like Trump's demand for a parade, initially caught the Defense Department unawares. Mattis was also widely viewed as being unenthusiastic about



In this Jan. 20, 2017 file photo, Marines march during the 58th Presidential Inauguration parade for President Donald Trump in Washington.

Associated Press

the president's plans to set up a Space Force as a new branch of the military — but as in the other cases, he has toed the line of the commander in chief. The parade was expected to include troops from all five armed services — the Army, Navy, Air Force,

Marine Corps and Coast Guard — as well as units in period uniforms representing earlier times in the nation's history. It also was expected to involve a number of military aircraft flyovers, which can carry significant costs in personnel, aircraft and support. □

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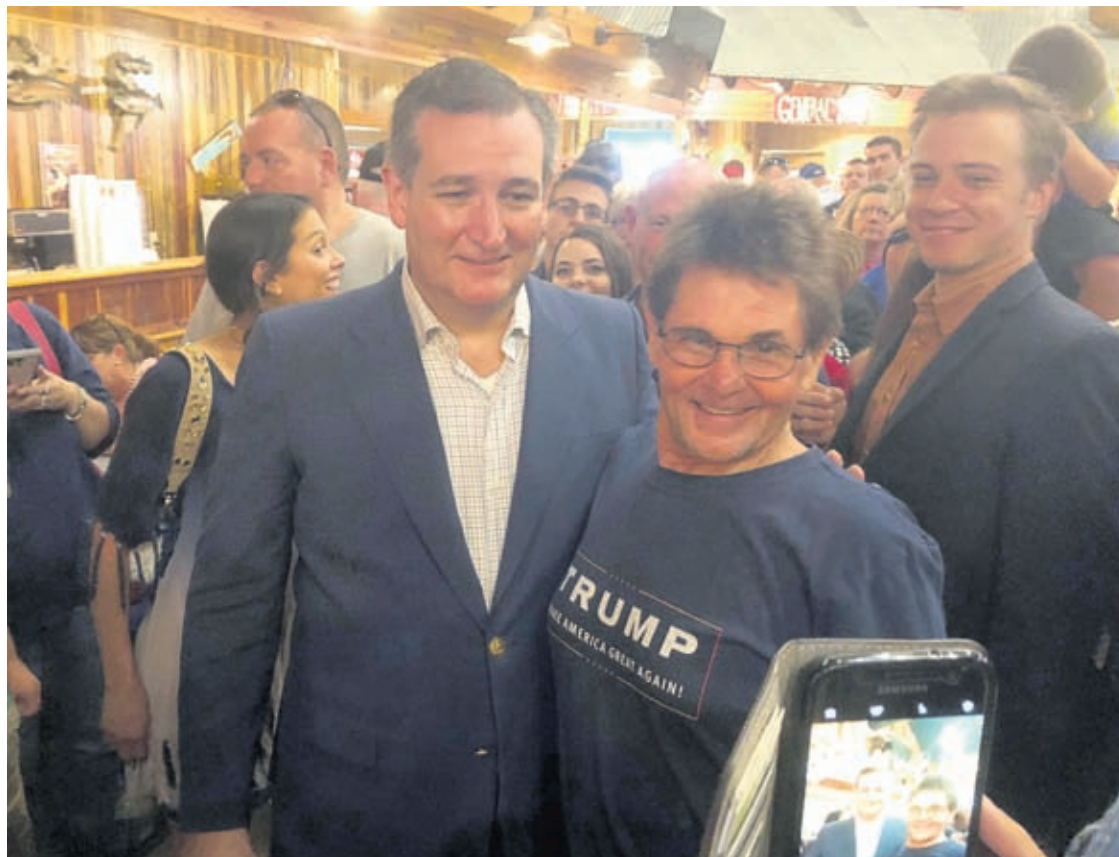


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Trump help for Cruz could spell new twist for odd couple



In this Aug. 10, 2018 photo, Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, left, poses with Gary Malcik following a campaign stop in Temple, Texas.

By **WILL WEISSERT**
Associated Press

TEMPLE, Texas (AP) — Gary Malcik wore a Trump T-shirt as he waited in a long, post-rally line to pose for pictures with Ted Cruz.

It was a far cry from the waning weeks of the 2016 GOP presidential primary, when Donald Trump supporters repeatedly heckled the Texas senator at campaign events, and from that year's Republican National Convention when Cruz was booed for refusing to endorse the party's nominee. But Malcik, 69 and self-employed, said he's glad to no longer have to choose sides.

"People like Ted," he said. "People love Trump." Now facing a high-profile re-election fight with Democratic Congressman Beto O'Rourke, Cruz says he'd welcome Trump coming

to Texas before November — though he shrugged off suggestions he needs the president's coattails to win. "In the last year and a half, we have seen major victories for Texans," Cruz said moments after posing with Malcik at a barbecue restaurant whose walls were cluttered with hunting trophies in Temple, 130 miles (210 kilometers) south of Dallas.

Trump has visited Texas five times as president, including after Hurricane Harvey and to address the National Rifle Association's annual convention. Still, the prospect of his potentially boosting candidate Cruz creates another twist in the awkward dance of one of the leading odd couples in all of politics.

The off-again, on-again relationship lays bare just how uncomfortable Trump is for

Republicans who want to demonstrate loyalty to someone the Republican base loves, but who also thrived before his rise — and hope to continue to do so after he's gone. Complicating matters is Cruz's refusal to rule out running again for president after Trump leaves the White House, even if the political contortions get awkward in the meantime.

"It gets awfully hard to talk glowingly about a guy when you openly pined for his job," said Joe Brettell, a Republican strategist in Houston who nonetheless conceded that Cruz "has no other choice. Donald Trump's going to be president for at least two more years."

Cruz spent the early months of the 2016 presidential race praising Trump, betting that the reality TV star's

supporters would flock to him if their candidate's meteoric rise flamed out. The two later clashed bitterly as Cruz finished second for the GOP nomination, with Trump suggesting that Cruz's Cuban-born father had a hand in John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Cruz responded that Trump was "utterly amoral" and refused to endorse him during their party's convention in Cleveland, only to suddenly announce his support barely a month before Election Day 2016. Neither has apologized for their earlier harsh words, but Cruz says his office now speaks to the White House weekly — sometimes daily — about policy.

"There's no doubt my relationship with Donald Trump has had its ups and downs," Cruz said, adding that, since 2016, on issues like pulling out of the Paris climate agreement, "I've been very grateful that the president has listened to me and agreed with my position."

The White House hasn't commented on the prospect of Trump campaigning in Texas. But the president has dropped into a number of battleground states, visiting Pennsylvania, Alabama and Ohio before elections there this year.

O'Rourke, a one-time punk rocker who has spent the past 18 months visiting all of Texas' 254 counties, has consistently outraised Cruz, including raking in \$10.4 million to the incumbent's \$4.6 million during the three-month period through June. His campaign declined to comment about the prospect of Trump coming to Texas.

Cruz remains favored in the race, but told hundreds who thronged the Temple rally, "We've got a battle on our hands."

"The far left is angry," he said. "They're energized and they're filled with rage and fury at the president. That's dangerous."

In one indication that Cruz still hasn't lived the presidential race down, a protester interrupted him with cries of "Lyin' Ted," Trump's trademark 2016 insult for Cruz.

And, when the senator accused O'Rourke of being open to impeaching the president, a man bellowed "For what?" dissipating the anti-O'Rourke gasps Cruz was hoping to elicit.

Olga Bradley, a retired Veterans Administration employee, said she came to the Temple rally because she wanted to be reassured that Cruz would defend Trump after his past opposition. She said she'd repeatedly ignored phone calls seeking support from the Cruz campaign while she awaited further evidence.

"We want politicians who support the president," said Bradley, 72, who agreed with a friend wearing a "Make American Great Again" baseball cap who quipped that a joint Trump-Cruz rally in Texas would be so well attended that "they'd better have it in a 10,000-acre field."

Malcik said he wasn't worried about Trump-Cruz awkwardness but is afraid that O'Rourke can stay within striking distance of Cruz.

"If Trump came down it would be a lot easier," Malcik said.

"He'd really pull him over the finish line." □

Lawyers: Discharged Army specialist granted U.S. citizenship

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A South Korean-born U.S. Army specialist who sued after the military moved to discharge her has been granted citizenship, her attorneys said Friday.

Yea Ji Sea, 29, had filed a lawsuit last month demanding a response to her citizenship application. She came to the country as a child on a visitor visa and held other visas before enlisting in 2013 under a special government program for foreign citizens who want to serve in the U.S. military.

Under the program, recruits agreed in their enlistment contracts to apply to naturalize as soon as their honorable service was certi-

fied.

Her lawsuit alleged that that the government improperly failed to process her citizenship application. Earlier this week, a federal judge ruled immigration officials had three weeks to decide whether to approve the citizenship application or explain the delay to the court.

On Friday, the Justice Department notified Sea that her application was approved, according to the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California. She's scheduled to be sworn in at a citizenship ceremony on Aug. 24. "I love this country and was honored to serve it in the U.S. Army," Sea said in a statement. "I had felt like I was like I was an American

since I was a child, growing up here. I had hoped for a long career in the Army. But I am so happy now that I will be a citizen."

Sea's attorney, Sameer Ahmed, said he was "glad the government has made good on its promise under its enlistment program." Ahmed said earlier this week that he believed Sea's case was part of a greater effort by the Trump administration to deny citizenship to soldiers.

The Associated Press reported last month immigration attorneys knew of more than 40 U.S. Army reservists and recruits who enlisted in the military with a promised path to citizenship and



Yea Ji Sea, a former U.S. Army specialist who was born in South Korea, talks with reporters after a federal court hearing in Los Angeles Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

have been discharged or whose status has become questionable, jeopardizing their futures.

The Army has since temporarily stopped discharging immigrant recruits, pending a review of the program. Sea applied for citizenship in 2014, but she was denied after immigration officials

alleged there had been a fraudulent document in an earlier student visa application. Sea believed the paperwork she obtained through an approved language school was legitimate, according to the lawsuit, but the school's owner was convicted in a fraud case. □

U.S. regulators target Facebook on discriminatory housing ads

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal regulators are alleging that Facebook's advertising tools allow landlords and real estate brokers to engage in housing discrimination.


The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development said in an administrative complaint this week that Facebook violated the Fair Housing Act because its targeting systems allow advertisers to exclude certain audiences, such as families with young children or disabled people, from seeing housing ads.

Service providers such as Facebook typically aren't liable for the actions of their users. In a separate, civil lawsuit filed by housing advocates, the Justice Department says Facebook doesn't fall under that category because it mines user data, some of which users have to provide, and customizes ads for specific audiences. The government says that counts as being a content creator, rather than merely a trans-

mitter of user content.


Facebook said the company doesn't allow discrimination and has strengthened its systems over the past year to prevent misuse. The company added that it is working directly with HUD to address its concerns. Facebook has an opportunity to respond to the HUD complaint before the agency determines whether to file formal charges.

The HUD action is separate from the federal lawsuit, filed in March in New York by the National Fair Housing Alliance and other organizations. The lawsuit says investigations by fair housing supporters in New York, Washington, D.C., Miami and San Antonio, Texas, show that Facebook continues to let advertisers discriminate even though civil rights and housing groups have notified the company since 2016 that it is violating the federal Fair Housing Act. It seeks unspecified damages and a court order to end discrimination. □



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Evangelicals confront sex abuse problems in #MeToo era

By **DAVID CRARY**
 AP National Writer

As the Roman Catholic church struggles with a new wave of clergy abuse cases, several prominent evangelical institutions have been rocked in recent weeks by their own sexual misconduct allegations against pastors and church leaders who exploited the trust they had gained from faithful churchgoers.

In many ways, the phenomenon at evangelical denominations is an offshoot of the #MeToo movement, as evidenced by the #ChurchToo hashtag accompanying accounts of church-related abuse that have been shared on Twitter. The victims are coming forward to expose abuse in the Protestant evangelical world where some say the misdeeds have been just as pervasive, though less publicized, as the acts committed by Catholic clergy.

"I really believe churches need to enter into a season of lament, acknowledging decades of failure



In this Tuesday, April 10, 2018 file photo, Willow Creek Community Church Senior Pastor Bill Hybels, sixth from left, and other church leaders pray before the congregation in South Barrington, Ill., where Hybels announced his early retirement effective immediately, amid a cloud of misconduct allegations involving women in his congregation.

to understand, address and confront these horrors," said Boz Tchividjian, a grandson of evangelist Billy Graham who heads GRACE, a ministry working to combat sexual abuse in churches.

The turmoil in evangelical ranks coincides with new disclosures about abuse

by Catholic clergy in the U.S., including multiple allegations against Cardinal Theodore McCarrick and a scathing grand jury report about rampant abuse in six Pennsylvania dioceses. However, the Catholic Church has been grappling publicly with its clergy abuse problem for more than two decades. For many American evangelicals, the #ChurchToo angst of recent weeks has been a painfully new experience. In late July, the Southern Baptist Convention — the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S. — announced plans to create a high-level study group to develop strategies for combatting sexual abusers and ministering to their victims. The move followed a series of revelations about sexual misconduct cases involving Southern Baptist churches and seminaries, including allegations that led to the ouster of powerful leader Paige Patterson as president of a seminary in Texas. "Sexual assault and sexual abuse are Satanic to the core," said the Rev. Russell Moore, a high-ranking Southern Baptist Convention leader. "Churches should be the ones leading the way when it comes to protecting the vulnerable from predators."

The issues have spread beyond the Southern Baptists.

Associated Press

Last week, sexual misconduct allegations against one of the country's highest-profile evangelicals, Bill Hybels, led to wrenching changes at Willow Creek Community Church, the Chicago-area megachurch he founded. The church's board of elders and lead pastor, before announcing plans to resign, said they would form an advisory council of Christian leaders from across the U.S. to oversee an investigation of the allegations lodged by several women against Hybels.

Hybels retired in April after some allegations were publicized, although at the time the elders belittled the women who spoke up. Announcement of the independent inquiry came a day after The New York Times quoted Hybels' former executive assistant, Pat Baranowski, as saying the pastor repeatedly groped and harassed her in the 1980s.

The elders, in a statement, apologized to Baranowski and the other women who alleged abuse ranging from suggestive comments to unwanted kissing and hugging.

"The church should always follow in Jesus' footsteps to help the wounded find healing, and we are sorry we added to your pain," the elders said. "We are

sorry that our initial statements were so insensitive, defensive, and reflexively protective of Bill." In the Chicago case and others like it, the abuse was carried out by ministers who wield tremendous influence over their congregations, leading to situations where victims are silenced and blamed themselves for the abuse.

"The pastor is someone who has authority, power, influence, and the victim usually is someone who doesn't," Tchividjian said. "The abusers walk away in great confidence that the victim will not speak out."

The recent public disclosures of abuse — and the unprecedented apologies — result largely from victims' newfound willingness to share their stories on social media in the #MeToo era, said psychologist Diane Langberg, an expert on sexual abuse and other traumas occurring in the context of Christian churches.

"Social media has given them a place to go with their stories other than to those in power," said Langberg, who runs a clinic near Philadelphia. "That has opened a door for voices that have never been heard or welcomed. And because there are so many who are coming forward, it lends a greater credibility." Given the Southern Baptist Convention's prominence, the work of its sexual abuse study group over the next year will be closely watched, particularly by those who question the denomination's insistence on male leadership in the home and the church. Under SBC doctrine, a wife "is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband."

Advocates for abuse victims are cautiously hopeful that the SBC's new president, North Carolina megachurch pastor J.D. Greear, is committed to curtailing abuse, but they want assurances that the group will include experts from outside the SBC, as well as abuse survivors. □

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Alaska man gets life in prison for Florida airport shooting

By CURT ANDERSON
AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — An Alaska man will spend the rest of his life in prison for the January 2017 Florida airport shooting that left five people dead and six wounded, a federal judge ordered Friday.

U.S. District Judge Beth Bloom accepted a plea deal in which Esteban Santiago, 28, agreed to admit to the shooting if prosecutors would not seek the death penalty. Santiago pleaded guilty in May to 11 charges of causing death and violence at an international airport.

Santiago, of Anchorage, Alaska, admitted he opened fire with a handgun in a baggage area at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport after traveling there on a one-way ticket. He retrieved a box containing a Walther 9mm handgun from checked luggage, loaded it in a restroom and came out firing 15 shots.

Judge Bloom called the rampage "85 seconds of evil" and said she found it difficult to "separate the evil of the acts from the evil in the man."

"You destroyed families in this senseless attack," the judge said.

An Iraq war veteran, Santiago was diagnosed after the shooting as schizophrenic but was found competent to understand legal proceedings. Doctors say he has improved with anti-psychotic medication. Santiago initially told the FBI after the shooting he was under government mind

control, then switched to unfounded claims he acted in support of the Islamic State extremist group.

Several family members of victims — many of whom were on their way to cruise ship vacations — spoke in court Friday, describing their deep sense of loss for those who died and some discussing the health struggles of shooting survivors. Among those was Julie Beauchamp, whose mother Mary Louise Amzibel was killed in the attack and father, Edward Amzibel, was seriously wounded.

"You don't get a chance to say one last 'I love you, mom,'" Beauchamp said. "I can no longer hug her and feel her hug me back."

James Steckley, speaking on behalf of his wounded wife Julie, said he blamed in part what he said was a "lack of concern" for military veterans once they return from combat zones. Santiago served in the National Guard in Iraq.

"I'm truly sorry for you in my heart because I truly don't believe you were a born killer," Steckley told Santiago.

Prosecutor Rick Del Toro said the family members supported the decision not to seek the death penalty for Santiago, in part to avoid what would be a lengthy, emotionally wrenching court case. Many preferred that Santiago sit in prison for decades rather than face execution, he added. "Potential attackers need to know they will never again go free if they conduct an attack such as this," Del Toro said.



In this Jan. 30, 2017, file photo, Esteban Santiago, center, is led from the Broward County jail for an arraignment in federal court in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

Technically, Santiago was sentenced to five consecutive life prison sentences for the five deaths and an additional 120 years for the six people he wounded. Prior to the shooting, Santiago was briefly treated at an Anchorage mental institution after showing up at the local FBI office claiming to be hearing voices, then was released with no

restrictions on owning a gun, authorities have said. Santiago later claimed in court he was getting "messages" in his head prior to the shooting. Santiago, a native of New Jersey, has family in Puerto Rico and a young son in Alaska, court records show. He did not speak in court Friday and no family members spoke on his behalf.

Del Toro said Santiago's mental illness may have worsened because he had been regularly taking hallucinogenic drugs, including LSD and mushrooms. But he added that Santiago meticulously planned the attack. "This isn't a situation where a person with mental illness just snaps," the prosecutor said. □

Greek bailout ends, but Europe's debt problems grind on

By DAVID McHUGH

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Greece officially completes its bailout program on Monday, after eight years of cutbacks enforced in return for massive loans and following an economic collapse on the scale of the Great Depression.

The exit is a welcome milestone. But it offers little assurance that the 19-country euro currency union has left behind its problems with debt.

The huge debt pile in Greece and an even bigger one in Italy will remain a lurking financial threat to Europe that could take a generation to defuse.

Europe's debt problems have repeatedly raised fears over the past decade of a break-up in the euro, a worst-case scenario that would cause severe economic damage in the region and shake world financial markets and trade.

In Greece, successive governments had borrowed heavily for three decades to fund generous spending on pensions and jobs given to political supporters, while tolerating widespread tax evasion and covering up budget shortfalls. All that blew up mightily in October 2009, when Greece admitted its budget deficit was much bigger than previously reported. Shocked investors no longer would risk loaning Greece money at affordable rates, forcing the government to turn to rescue loans from the other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund.

The loans came with tough conditions: closing deficits, which led to aggressive tax increases and spending cuts; and a raft of reforms aimed at improving tax collection and the business climate in general. The economy, hit hard by spending cuts, shrank by a quarter.

All told, Greece now owes total debt of 322 billion euros (\$366 billion), or over 180 percent of annual economic output. Of that, 256.6 billion euros is owed to eurozone creditors and 32.1 billion to the Interna-



In this file photo dated Friday, June 22, 2018, people walk past the Bank of Greece headquarters as workers repair the facade of the building in central Athens.

Associated Press

tional Monetary Fund. In 2012, about 107 billion euros in debt was lopped off by inflicting losses on private bondholders.

Monday is the day the third and last bailout program expires, meaning no more money is available. Greece will remain subject to quarterly visits by technical experts to make sure it is meeting agreed targets for public finances until the last bailout loan is repaid, in 2060.

The other eurozone countries gave Greece enough cash to cover 22 months of financing needs and significantly eased its debt repayment terms. Greece needs to pass the quarterly reviews to activate that debt relief. But Greece will get no new reform requirements.

Some experts say that the best way to help Greece would be for eurozone countries to write off a part of the loans altogether. But governments have balked at that. The bailouts were unpopular, particularly in Germany, and loan forgiveness would be a tough sell for leaders such Ger-

man Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The IMF and prominent economists say that if part of Greece's loans are not written off, its debt loan will eventually start to rise out of control again. Greece is meant to run exceptionally large budget surpluses before interest payments — so-called primary surpluses of 3.5 percent of GDP through 2023, and 2.2 percent thereafter. The IMF says very few countries historically have been able to do that.

It says countries often quickly undo cuts, as people get fed up over lost services. Spending on state health care in Greece, for instance, has been squeezed to one of the lowest levels in the eurozone, with the poorest 20 percent of Greeks saying they spend 44 percent of household income on out-of-pocket medical expenses and many reporting they have simply done without medical care.

George Pagoulatos, a professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business, says that in the

end the country's creditors may have to lower their expectations for how much Greece can save.

He thinks lower surpluses plus better economic growth from the pro-business reforms could be the key to make debt sustainable.

"It doesn't mean that tax evasion has been eradicated or that governments will no longer do favors for their supporters," Pagoulatos said. But the degree of reform should not be underestimated. The changes over eight years "have been very significant and they must have an impact on productivity."

Italy's slow growth since joining the euro has meant that the eurozone's third-largest member has failed to work down the huge debt burden it carried into the currency union when it joined as a founding member in 1999. It remains at an elevated 133.4 percent of GDP, the second highest after Greece. Officials associated with the coalition between the populist 5 Star Movement party and the anti-immigration

League have made comments about leaving the euro and criticized the European Union's rules limiting debt and deficits. That has raised fears of a new debt crisis.

Eurozone officials have set up ways to protect the currency union in a crisis. One is to have the European Central Bank offer to buy bonds of countries with excessive borrowing costs. But that requires signing up for a plan to reduce the public deficit, and that appears to be the last thing the current government would do. The most drastic alternative would be for Italy to leave the euro.

Guntram Wolff, director of the Bruegel research institute in Brussels, says Italy's debt situation is different from Greece's, in that most Italian bonds are in the hands of Italians.

That means the governments' debt payments stay at home to support spending and investment by Italians.

"In Italy, the debt problem is essentially an internal question," he said.

Italy's progress will be decided by a mix of three factors: rising interest rates, economic growth, and the political willingness to making savings in public finances over a number of years, that is, to forgo spending on things like schools and pensions in order to pay debt. The recent political turmoil has unnerved investors, who raised the cost for Italy to borrow on bond markets.

"Whether Italy will be able to do this politically and economically, that is the 2 trillion euro question," said Wolff, referring to the size of Italy's public debt. He believes politicians' determination to keep public finances in check is eroding. "So I would say the picture looks grimmer than it did six months ago."

Ultimately Wolff thinks that the disruption from leaving the euro would be so great that the government would change course.

The losses "would be so massive, people would say, no, no let's not do that." □

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Anger engulfs families as Italy buries its bridge victims

By COLLEEN BARRY
FRANCES D'EMILIO
PAOLO SANTALUCIA
Associated Press

GENOA, Italy (AP) — With anger and grief, Italians began burying some of their dead Friday from the Genoa highway bridge collapse, holding funerals in the victims' hometowns. Several angry families rebuffed the offer of a state funeral and the cardinal of Naples was merciless in his condemnation of negligence by Italian officials. Saturday has been declared a national day of mourning in Italy and will include a state funeral at the industrial port city's fair grounds for those who plunged to their deaths as the 45-meter (150-foot) tall Morandi Bridge gave way Tuesday.

But many of those who lost loved ones declined to participate in the state funeral. Some cited the need to bid farewell in private while others blamed the loss of at least 38 lives on those responsible for the bridge's safety.

Anger and sadness erupted at the funeral Friday for four men in their 20s, all friends from the Naples seaside suburb of Torre del Greco, whose lives were snuffed out as they drove over the bridge heading to a vacation in Spain.

"You can't, you mustn't die for negligence! For carelessness! For irresponsibility! For superficiality!" thundered Naples Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe in his homily.

Finding the cause of the bridge's collapse during a



A woman mourns a victim of a collapsed highway bridge, at the Fiera di Genova exhibition center, where some of the coffins are laid in state, in Genoa, Italy, Friday, Aug. 17, 2018.

Associated Press

driving rainstorm might take weeks or months to determine. But Genoa prosecutors say they are focusing their investigation into possible criminal blame on design flaws or inadequate maintenance on the heavily traveled bridge, which was completed in 1967 and linked two high-speed highways in the city.

"My boy and the others suffered murder," said Roberto Battiloro, whose 29-year-old son, a videographer, was one of the four friends who died. "They died an absurd, blameless death just for going on holiday." His voice shaking with anger, Battiloro said his son was the "victim of a cruel fate, but also of whoever didn't think that on that bridge could be the chil-

dren of those who are despairing today."

"I have died inside, but I have to find the clarity of mind to say that four boys were not No. 27, No. 28, etc (on the victims' list), but people who loved life," Battiloro declared.

Other private funerals were held in Piedmont and elsewhere in Italy.

Survivors, for their part, were shocked at how they escaped with their lives.

Davide Capello, 33, a firefighter and soccer player, was driving alone on the bridge when his Volkswagen Tiguan and the road it was on plunged to the ground. He immediately understood that the structure was collapsing, watching in shock as a car in front of him "disappeared in

darkness."

"It came down, everything, the world came down," he told The Associated Press in an interview Friday, adding that he managed to walk away physically unharmed but psychologically traumatized.

His car plunged nose first, then stopped with a crash, air bags releasing all around him. He said he saw only gray, as concrete dust covered the windows.

Capello used the touchscreen phone in the car to call colleagues at the Savona dispatch center, who sent help. He then called his girlfriend and his father, a retired firefighter, who told him to get out of the car immediately for fear that it would destabilize or something heavy

would fall on top of it.

Since neither the car's windows nor its doors would budge, he unclipped his seat belt and climbed out through a hole in the rear of the car that was blasted open by the crash. Outside, he said, "there was an unreal silence" — destroyed vehicles and piles of broken concrete and asphalt, but no signs of life, no cries for help.

Rescue workers then helped him climb down from the rubble.

"I got out with my own legs," said Capello, who plays for a Serie C club in Liguria. "I don't know if anyone else managed to. I was saved by a miracle."

"The car protected me. Besides God, the car also did its job," Capello said.

On Thursday, prosecutors said as many as 20 people could still be missing in the bridge collapse, but cautioned that some people initially reported as unaccounted for might be on vacation and hadn't yet contacted their families.

Civil protection department officials said Friday there might only be five people missing, but the exact number was fluctuating.

Excavators have begun clearing large sections of the collapsed bridge. Rescuers have been tunneling through tons of jagged steel and concrete blocks to look inside crushed vehicles.

Several vehicles, abandoned by their fleeing occupants on the intact ends of the bridge, were gingerly removed Friday. □

In Uganda a pop star takes on a president, at his peril

By **RODNEY MUHUMUZA**

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) —

In his red beret and jumpsuit the Ugandan pop star Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, better known as Bobi Wine, leads cheering campaigners down a street, punching the air and waving the national flag.

Once considered a marijuana-loving crooner, the 36-year-old “ghetto child” is an unlikely new political phenomenon — and that has put him in danger as an opposition lawmaker taking on one of Africa’s longest-serving leaders.

On Friday he alleged he was “severely tortured” by security forces during an arrest this week.

The new member of parliament has urged his countrymen to stand up against what he calls a failing government.

His “Freedom” video opens with him singing behind bars: “We are fed up with those who oppress our lives.”

He has protested against an unpopular social media tax and a controversial change to the constitution removing presidential age limits.

Despite murmurs about his wild past and inexperience in politics, his approach appears to be working: All of the candidates he has backed in strongly contested legislative by-elections this year have emerged victorious.

But after clashes this week led to a smashed window in President Yoweri Museveni’s convoy and Ssentamu’s own driver shot dead, some of the singer’s supporters now wonder if they’ll ever see him again.

The brash young lawmaker was charged Thursday in a military court with illegal possession of firearms for his alleged role in Monday’s clashes in the northwestern town of Arua, where both he and Museveni were campaigning.

As the president’s convoy left a rally, authorities say, a group associated with Ssentamu and the candidate he supported, Kas-

siano Wadri, pelted it with stones.

Ssentamu quickly posted on Twitter a photo of his dead driver slumped in a

and does not know how to handle one, reinforcing widespread concerns about trumped-up charges.

Ssentamu has urged bold action. The young must replace the old in Uganda’s leadership, he says.

His message resonates



In this photo taken Tuesday, July 11, 2017, Ugandan pop star Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, better known as Bobi Wine, gestures to supporters shortly after being sworn in as a member of parliament in Kampala, Uganda.

Associated Press

car seat, blaming police “thinking they’ve shot at me.” Then he was arrested, and he hasn’t been seen in public since.

On Friday, limping and swollen-faced, he told visiting members of the Uganda Human Rights Commission that he had been “severely tortured” during his arrest by uniformed officers.

“In spite of having surrendered, they pounced on him, hit his head with an iron bar, indiscriminately beat and kicked him all over the body until he became unconscious,” the commission’s statement said.

Army spokesman Brig. Richard Karemba didn’t address the allegation but said the military will ensure he receives medical attention “now that he is under its safe custody.”

Critics have said Uganda’s government might find it easier to get the verdict it wants in a military court, where independent observers often have limited access. Ssentamu’s wife, Barbara, told reporters he has never owned a gun

After seeing him in detention on Friday she said in a statement that he is “in such a terrible state and in urgent need of medical attention.”

The U.S. Embassy said in a statement it was “disturbed by reports of brutal treatment” of legislators and others by security forces, urging the government “to show the world that Uganda respects its constitution and the human rights of all of its citizens.”

A separate statement by the European Union delegation and several other Western diplomats expressed similar concerns.

The case against Ssentamu has riveted this East African country that has rarely seen a politician of such charisma and drive. Beaten and bruised, often literally, opposition politicians have largely retreated as the 74-year-old Museveni pursues an even longer stay in power.

While Kizza Besigye, a four-time presidential challenger who has been jailed many times, appears to relax his protest movement,

widely in a country where many educated young people cannot find employment, public hospitals often lack basic medicines and main roads are dangerously potholed.

With traditional avenues of political agitation largely blocked by the government, the spectacle of an entertainer with a political message offers hope to those who want change, said Mwambutsya Ndebesa, who teaches political history at Uganda’s Makerere University.

“There is political frustration, there is political anger, and right now anyone can do. Even if it means following a comedian,” Ndebesa said.

“Uganda is a political accident waiting to happen. A singer like Bobi Wine can put Uganda on fire.”

Running against both the ruling party and the main opposition party under Besigye, Ssentamu won his parliament seat by a landslide last year.

Asked about his presidential ambitions, he told local

broadcaster NBS that “it is good to imagine things, but it is better to work toward that imagination.”

Ssentamu later was among a small group of lawmakers roughed up by security forces inside the chamber for their failed efforts to block legislation that opened the door for Museveni to possibly rule for life.

“You are either uninformed or you are a liar, a characteristic you so liberally apply to me,” the president said to Ssentamu in a scathing letter published in local newspapers in October amid public debate over the law.

Museveni, who took power by force in 1986, is now able to rule into the 2030s.

While his government is a key U.S. security ally, the security forces have long faced human rights groups’ allegations of abuses.

The beating of Ssentamu, however, has only boosted his popularity and led to calls for a presidential run in 2021.

“The only critical thing is how he responds to the brutality of the state,” said Asuman Bisiika, a Ugandan political analyst.

“How does he respond after the physical impact of the state on his body? We are waiting.”

His trial is likely to be drawn out over months and possibly years, impeding his political activities. His followers have expressed concern that this is the government’s motive.

In the poor suburb of Kamwokya in the capital, Kampala, where Ssentamu’s musical journey began and he is fondly recalled as “the ghetto president,” some vow to fight until he is freed. Protesters on Thursday were quickly dispersed by police lobbing tear gas.

“For us, Bobi Wine is a good leader because he cares for the ordinary person and he is a truth teller,” said John Bosco Ssegawa, standing in a street where tires had been burned. “And those people whose names I will not mention think he is wrong. No, they are wrong.” □



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IS deadly new front in Pakistan's decades-old terror war

By KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

DHABEJI, Pakistan (AP) — Hafeez Nawaz was 20 years old when he left his religious school in Karachi to join the Islamic State group in Afghanistan. Three years later he was back in Pakistan to carry out a deadly mission: With explosives strapped to his body, he blew himself up in the middle of an election rally last month, killing 149 people and wounding 300 others.

The attack in southwestern Baluchistan province near the Afghan border just days before Pakistan's July 25 parliamentary elections has cast an unwelcome spotlight on Nawaz's tiny village of Dhabeji, where the presence of an IS cell in their midst has brought the full weight of Pakistan's security apparatus down on its residents.

"Now we are all under suspicion," said Nawaz's neighbor, who gave only his first name, Nadeem, for fear of the local police. "The security agencies now consider Dhabeji a security threat area."

Nawaz's trajectory from religiously devout student to jihadi and suicide bomber is an all too familiar one in Pakistan.

Since battlefield successes routed the Islamic State group from its strongholds in Syria and Iraq, hundreds of Pakistanis who traveled to join the extremists' so-called "caliphate" are unaccounted for and Pakistan's security personnel worry that they, like Nawaz, have gone underground waiting to strike.

Sitting in his office in a compound surrounded by high walls and heavily armed guards, Karachi's counterterrorism department chief, Pervez Ahmed Chandio,



In this Aug. 10, 2018, file photo, family members of suicide bomber Hafeez Nawaz, with their faces covered, are presented before media for in Karachi, Pakistan.

Associated Press

said the Islamic State group is the newest and deadliest front in Pakistan's decades-old war on terror.

"It is one of the most dangerous threats facing Pakistan and we are ready to fight this war," he said.

It's the amorphous nature of IS that has counterterrorism officials like Chandio most worried. When one cell is disrupted another emerges, sometimes within weeks and often in an unrelated part of the country. "It's what they don't know that is the most worrying for counterterrorism departments around the country," said Mohammad Amir Rana, executive director of the Islamabad-based Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies, which tracks militant movements in the region. "Its hideouts, its structure, its strategy are all unknown. They are an invisible enemy who is defeated in one area, only to resurface in another."

A U.N. Security Council report earlier this year warned of the changing face of IS, saying the extremist group

was "entering a new phase, with more focus on less visible networks of individuals and cells acting with a degree of autonomy."

Hafeez Nawaz was just such a case.

Three years ago, he joined his older brother, Aziz, to study at Siddiquia Madrasa in Karachi's Shah Faisal Colony neighborhood, an area where the level of sectarian violence at the time was so brutal that even police could not enter. A crackdown by paramilitary Rangers has since led to the arrest and killing of hundreds of militants and criminals.

Today, the religious school is among 94 madrassas under surveillance in Karachi and elsewhere in southern Sindh province, Chandio said. They have been identified as breeding grounds for radicalism, schools where jihadis have emerged and that perpetrators of attacks attended. Many are financed by oil-rich Saudi Arabia to promote the rigid Wahabi sect of Islam practiced in the kingdom,

Chandio said. The origin of the money, whether from the Saudi government or Saudi philanthropists, is not clear but the teachings at these schools espouse a rigid interpretation of Islam and the superiority of Sunni Islam.

It was at Siddiquia Mosque that Nawaz's brother, Aziz, fell in with a crowd of would-be jihadis and was persuaded to travel to Afghanistan's Spinboldak region on the border with Pakistan in 2014 to join the Taliban. But his allegiance was short-lived as commanders squabbled and Aziz returned to Pakistan. Once back home, he inducted his younger brother, Hafeez, into the jihadi circle but this time, it was the Islamic State group that held sway, said Chandio, who was part of the counterterrorism squad that, using little more than body parts and grainy cell phone pictures, identified Hafeez Nawaz as the suicide bomber behind the July 13 election rally attack. Chandio learned from the

brothers' father that Nawaz and Aziz packed up their three sisters and their mother and moved them to Afghanistan in 2016 to live among an Islamic State affiliate there. Two of the sisters have since married IS operatives. Their youngest brother, Shakoore, who was sent by their father a year later to plead with them to return, remains in Afghanistan, as does Aziz.

Chandio suspects 19-year-old Shakoore is now an IS operative and could be the next suicide bomber. He said Shakoore fits the criteria: a young man in his late teens or early 20s, religiously devout and susceptible to radicalization.

Hafeez Nawaz was just 23 when he walked into the middle of the election rally in Baluchistan's Mustang area and detonated the suicide vest that sprayed shrapnel throughout the tent packed with local tribesmen.

Nawaz's father and his oldest brother, Haq Nawaz, are now in custody, caught trying to flee to Afghanistan, Chandio said.

Some analysts say the threat posed by the Islamic State group in Pakistan is, at least in part, the result of the country's bewildering attitude toward the toxic mix of militant groups that operate in the country.

Since 2004, the Pakistani military has killed or driven out thousands of militants from their mountain redoubts in the tribal regions that border Afghanistan, suffering thousands of casualties in those battles. Yet Pakistan allows banned groups, some with a long history of sectarian violence, to re-emerge and operate under new names, and known militants to move about freely. □

Could Brazil's da Silva really run? It's not likely

By SARAH DiLORENZO

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — While jailed former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has long insisted he can run for Brazil's presidency again despite his conviction, legal experts say the path to doing that is extremely narrow and unlikely to happen. And his Workers' Party risks missing the deadline to register an alternative candidate if it pushes his case for too long.

The party defiantly registered da Silva's candidacy in October's election to much fanfare Wednesday, despite his conviction for corruption and money laundering last year — a decision that was upheld in January by an appeals court. Under a provision that da Silva himself signed into law while president, candidates who have had a conviction upheld are ineligible to hold office for eight years.

But such candidates are not automatically barred from campaigning for office. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal must officially accept or reject da Silva's candidacy. In the meantime, he is free to campaign and receive the benefits of being officially



In this April 7, 2018 file photo, former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva looks on before speaking to supporters outside the Metal Workers Union headquarters in Sao Bernardo do Campo, Brazil.

registered, including access to the free television time allotted for political ads. Some of these benefits may be restricted by da Silva's imprisonment, but he still holds a wide lead in pre-election polls.

"The fact of not being able to be a candidate doesn't prevent you from trying to be a candidate," said Daniel Falcao, a professor of electoral law at the Institute of Public Law of Brasilia. "The electoral law

says that when a person presents his registration, he is a candidate, normally until the day that electoral authorities say he cannot be a candidate."

The question of whether da Silva should be allowed to run has attracted attention even outside Brazil. On Friday, a group of U.N.-appointed human rights experts called for Brazilian authorities to ensure that da Silva "can enjoy and exercise his political rights

while in prison," including not barring his candidacy until all of his appeals have finished.

Experts say the electoral tribunal is all but certain to reject da Silva's candidacy as it stands, but his supporters hope for a favorable decision in the criminal courts while election officials are considering his case. This would be a decision to overturn or suspend his conviction from either the Superior Court of Justice or

Associated Press

the Supreme Federal Tribunal — the second-highest and the highest courts in the land, respectively.

Da Silva and his supporters contend such relief is a real possibility. They have always argued the allegation that he traded favors with a construction company in exchange for the promise of a beachfront apartment was trumped up precisely to prevent him from assuming the presidency again.

He and his party contend that behind his prosecution is a conspiracy to undermine the gains made during his 2003-2010 presidency, when da Silva oversaw an economic boom and shared its fruits with the country's poor and working classes. "Right now, we are concerned with guaranteeing the popular sovereignty," said former Sao Paulo Mayor Fernando Haddad, who was registered Wednesday as da Silva's vice presidential candidate. "And the people want to see Lula on the ballot." But the Workers' Party also has to keep its eye on the clock. It only has until Sept. 17 to replace da Silva if he is barred. Haddad would likely then take the top spot. The first round of the election is Oct. 7. □

Families of Peru's disappeared hope for answers

By RODRIGO ABD

FRANKLIN BRICENO

Associated Press

AYACUCHO, Peru (AP)

— Thousands of Peruvian families who have spent decades wondering about loved ones who disappeared during years of bloody conflict between the state and Maoist guerrillas have new hopes for getting the closure they have been searching for.

The skeletal remains of 14 people were recently turned over to loved ones under an innovative new law that authorities hope will speed up what has long been a lengthy and burdensome process to identify those killed in the

conflict.

Under the new measure, authorities can turn over remains uncovered by forensic scientists before determining a cause of death or completing an investigation. Families are also no longer required to file a complaint with the chief prosecutor's office first.

More than 20,300 Peruvians are still considered "disappeared" in the struggle between Peru's military and Shining Path rebels during the 1980s and 1990s. Public prosecutors with heavy caseloads and few resources have been unable to identify suspects or help families find their missing relative's remains in the

vast majority of cases.

Forensic scientists in several countries in Latin America are still working to identify the remains of people killed during military dictatorships and civil conflicts decades ago.

In countries like Peru, those remains are being found in remote areas that are difficult to access.

Susana Cori, who is leading work by the International Red Cross in locating the disappeared in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, called the new Peruvian approach unique, saying that in other parts of the region, "this model with a humanitarian focus has not been used."

The new mandate is also



In this Aug. 14, 2018 photo, relatives take pictures of remains of Fortunato Ventura Huamacusi, a man who was killed by the Peruvian army in 1983, before placing the coffin in cemetery in Peru's Ayacucho province.

Associated Press

aimed at helping families whose relatives were informally buried.

The family of Alberto Ramos is among the first to benefit from that aspect. Military officers accused the 25-year-old truck driver

of belonging to the Shining Path and shot him to death. Hours later, his frightened relatives buried him in a rural cemetery and never got a death certificate to formally declare his violent end. □

LOCAL



Women Unplugged Workshop

ORANJESTAD — RENEW Women Aruba inspires hope and contributes to the overall wellbeing of women through integrated education, information and support. After a very successfully first edition of Women Unplugged Conference and seeing the need for more and more information to be given on certain topics they are ready to present the second edition, but this time as a workshop.

At the Women Unplugged Workshop there will be 4 speakers who are all professionals in all kinds of areas, Richelle Stuut-Kock, Shamilla Williams, Roselyn Berlis and Jenny Croes. Each of them will be focused on certain topics and will give valuable tools and tips with the purpose too train all the participants in dealing with whatever issue there might be going through in their life.

The guest speakers and their topics are as follow:

Ending the Yo-yo Effect | Richelle Stuut-Kock

It's a reality that women continuously struggle with their weight. Richelle is a professional in the area of weight management, she will be showing how you as a woman can manage to lose weight and also how to maintain it.

Manage your Time, Manage Stress, Manage Yourself | Shamilla Williams

In order to get some rest you need to be organized. Shamilla is a financial professional and she will be talking about the steps to take in order to organize your life, your family, how to distribute house chores and keep everyone responsible for it. She will also give you valuable tips on budgeting for your household.

Claiming your Healing |

Roselyn Berlis

More and more we see that different diseases suddenly appear in our body. Roselyn will be talking about the roots of these different types of deceases, how you can live free from them and how to receive healing for your body.

Living with Depression & Anxiety | Jenny Croes

Loneliness, sorrow and rejection presents in the life of every women and if you don't know how to deal with it you will fall into depression and anxiety. Jenny will be talking about how to prevent, deal and overcome the depression.

The workshop will take place on Saturday August 18 at the Alhambra & Divi Resorts Aruba, J.E. Irausquin Blvd 41. From 9AM till 1PM. For more information check out their facebook page Renew Women Aruba. ☐



Enjoy Your Free Movie Night



ARUBA —The Multifunctional Accommodations Office building (MFA), presents a Short Film Night, complimentary to the public. On Tuesday 21, Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 August you are most welcome to enjoy five short movies with the local community.

The short movies that will be shown on each evening are: Childhood Memories,

Gerry el Barbero, 30.000.000 Plastic Bags Aruba, Deserted Houses and Social Media. MFA Paradera will start on August 21, followed by MFA Noord at August 22 and MFA Savaneta at August 23, all events begin at 7 PM until 9 PM. The MFA's are intended for the services provided by the Government to be within reach of the people living in that certain neighborhood. The

MFA will also be open in the evenings for the neighborhood organizations that arrange meetings such as ecclesiastical, social, and educational organizations.

The Short Movie Night is for people of all ages and the entrance is free. For more information please call MFA Noord 281-0001, MFA Paradera 281-0005 or MFA Savaneta na 281-0010. ☐



Happy Pinot Noir Day



ARUBA — Pinot is a fantastic wine, but a temperamental grape. With its rich color and complex flavors, it is largely considered one of the most hedonistic wines ever made. Elegant and berry-lie, its velvet flavor is the perfect addition to any affair. Pinot Noir Day celebrates this wine and the regions of the world in which it's cultivated.

History of Pinot Noir Day

Every wine deserves to have a day dedicated to its consumption, and none more so than Pinot Noir. Pinot Noir is so named due to the dark color of the grapes, and the pine-cone shaped clusters they grow in on the vine. Showing a strong preference for cooler climates, the grape of the same name is grown primarily in Burgundy, France, though

Willamette Valley, Oregon in the USA and Walker Bay region of South Africa both produce notably large crops. Of course, cultivating Pinot Noir is not a task for the faint of heart, for these grapes are difficult to cultivate and tricky to turn into wine.

Perhaps that's appropriate for a wine that is both rich and complex. The skin of the grapes are thin and

don't offer the protection of thicker skinned grapes, and can be finicky during the aging process, frequently being uneven and unpredictable. The tight clusters require careful management lest rot set in, and this often involves careful management of the canopy. For those who are willing to brave it and cultivate the skill, the wine that is produced is beyond measure. Pinot Noir Day celebrates all that is required to produce this wine and the delicious bounty that unfolds.

How to Celebrate Pinot Noir

Day

Head down to your local store and procure yourself a bottle of this delicious wine. Pinot Noir comes in many varieties that each carries the personality and taste of the regions they come from. Get together with your friends and each brings a bottle of your favorite Pinot Noir and then collect other bottles of vintages of Pinot Noir with which you are less familiar. Pinot Noir Day is a great opportunity to broaden your palette and indulge in your favorite variety of this dark wine. Enjoy it and share generously! ☐



Monetary Policy 2018

ORANJESTAD — During its meeting of May 24, 2018, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) decided to keep the reserve requirement at 11.0 percent and to uphold the advance rate at 1.0 percent, after reviewing the most recent economic and monetary data. The following information and analysis were considered in reaching this decision, based on March 2018 data.

International reserves

The international reserves (including revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings) and official reserves remained at adequate levels. Both the international reserves (+3.3 percent) and official reserves (+5.3 percent) recorded growth in March 2018, compared to December 2017 (Chart1). Consequently, the interna-

tional reserves and the official reserves reached, respectively, Afl. 1,884.9 million and Afl. 1,736.5 million at end-March 2018.

Credit developments

Overall credit extended by the domestic commercial banking sector remained unchanged (0.0 percent) compared to December 2017. The decline in business loans (-0.9 percent) was countered by growth in loans to individuals (+0.3 percent) and other loans (+1.3 percent), resulting in a zero overall credit growth. The rise in loans to individuals was mainly driven by a surge in housing mortgages that was partly countered by a decline in consumer credit. Business loans were mainly affected by a decrease in term loans with a maturity greater than two years.

Inflation

In both the end-of-period rate (2.6 percent) and the 12-month average rate (0.0 percent) of inflation price level rises were measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Both increases were primarily the result of an uptick in the transport and food components. The 12-month core inflation (excluding energy and food) reached 0.4 percent, mainly reflecting an increase in the housing, education, transport, and hotel & restaurant components.

Tourism

During the first three months of 2018, tourism indicators development noted upturns, as growth was registered in tourist arrivals (+4.3 percent), visitor nights (+5.0 percent), cruise visitor arrivals (+9.9 percent), and tourism receipts recorded at the commercial banks (+11.2 percent), reflecting the buoyancy in the U.S.

tourism market.

Money supply

Money supply registered an increase of Afl. 54.4 million to Afl. 4,386.9 million compared to the previous month, resulting from an expansion in the net domestic assets (+Afl. 81.6 million) and decline in the net foreign assets (-Afl. 27.2 million). The growth in the domestic component of the money supply was mainly attributed to upturns in domestic credit (+Afl. 73.3 million) and in the non-credit related balance sheet items (+Afl. 8.3 million), whereas the drop in the net foreign assets stemmed mostly from transactions associated with the import of goods, net transfers to foreign accounts, current transfers, income payments, and payments of other services. This was largely counter-balanced by foreign exchange in-

flows related to tourism activities.

Financial markets

Expansions were recorded in the weighted average interest rate on new loans (+0.5 percentage point to 7.2 percent) and in the weighted average interest rate on new deposits (+0.6 percentage point to 2.0 percent), when compared to the previous month. Consequently, the weighted average interest rate margin on new loans and deposits declined by 0.1 percentage point to 5.2 percent.

Advance rate

The CBA's advance rate remained unchanged. The margin between the CBA's advance rate and the Federal Funds rate stood at 0.51 percentage point in March 2018. ☐

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Honoring the Klomberg family as 'Distinguished Visitors'

PALM BEACH — Recently, Ms. Emely Ridderstaat of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a group of Loyal and Friendly visitors of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The Honorees are Mr. & Mrs. Klomberg. Who have been honored as "Distinguished Visitor" for having visited Aruba for 14 consecutive years. They are staying at the Riu Palace Aruba Hotel. The Klomberg love Aruba very much. They have been bringing their children and grandchildren with them during all these years. They have been coming to Aruba 3 times per year. Mr. & Mrs. Klomberg mentioned they love Aruba so much because of their friendly people, the stunning white beaches and the fabulous weather.

Ms. Emely Ridderstaat together with representatives of Riu Palace presented the certificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □



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Aruban Drone Racer wins Dutch Competition

THE NETHERLANDS — Vince Irie turned out to be the overall winner last week-end during a Drone Racing Competition in The Netherlands.

The exciting final race was clearly in Vince his hands and he can add this victory to his successful drone racing career. Vince, who is also a singer, proved his skills in the field of this exceptional sport throughout the world but he will never forget his roots, Aruba. Just a couple of months ago he organized a drone race on his own island, on the beach of the ex-Bushiri hotel. □



SPORTS



Miami Marlins starting pitcher Jose Urena leaves the field after being ejected for hitting Atlanta Braves' Ronald Acuna Jr. with a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Intentional plunkings come under fire after Urena hits Acuna

By JAKE SEINER
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Aaron Judge saw Jose Urena's plunking of Ronald Acuna Jr. before the Yankees played a day game Thursday, and he felt Acuna's pain. The reigning AL home run leader knows that with so many big flies comes a risk that some disgruntled pitcher may try burying a fastball in your ribs.

"Oh yeah, it's happened before," New York's star slugger said.

Throwing at a batter for hitting home runs? That's what many think Urena did, including Mets broadcaster and former big league first baseman Keith Hernandez, who defended Urena's plunking of Atlanta's breakout rookie.

Continued on Page 22



STILL THE ONE

Snedeker follows 59 with 67, takes 2-shot lead at Wyndham

Brandt Snedeker raises his arm after sinking an eagle putt on the 15th hole during the second round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, N.C., Friday, Aug. 17, 2018.

Associated Press
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Snedeker follows 59 with 67, takes 2-shot lead at Wyndham

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Brandt Snedeker couldn't block out the buzz that surrounded his first-round 11-under 59 at the Wyndham Championship. He refocused just in time to reclaim the lead.

Snedeker followed his historic opening score with a 67 on Friday to take a two-stroke lead into the weekend at the Wyndham Championship.

A day after becoming the 10th player in PGA Tour history to break 60, Snedeker moved to 14-under 126 halfway through the final PGA Tour event before the playoffs.

"You hear people telling you every two seconds, 'Mr. 59,' or saying how cool it was to watch it," Snedeker said. "So, yes, totally on your mind."

D.A. Points shot a 64 to reach 12 under — one stroke ahead of C.T. Pan, who also had a 64. David Hearn, Peter Malnati, Keith Mitchell, Harris English, Brett Stegmaier and Sergio Garcia were 9 under.

Snedeker, the 2012 FedEx Cup champion, won this



C.T. Pan, of Taiwan, waves after making a birdie on the 18th hole during the second round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Friday, Aug. 17, 2018.

Associated Press

tournament in 2007 before it moved across town to the par-70 Sedgefield Country Club. He had the tour's first 59 of the year during the

first round.

But it wasn't easy to follow a score like that. Of the nine previous players who have broken 60 on the tour,

six had to play the next day and only one has shot better than 65 in that round: Justin Thomas, who had a 64 in the second round of last year's Sony Open.

"You can't ignore it, you can't try to forget about it," Snedeker said. "Hardest thing is trying to get back into a rhythm. ... Now I'm better equipped for the next time I shoot 59 and play the next day."

By the time Snedeker teed off Friday afternoon, that low score had held up for a one-stroke lead. It temporarily slipped away when he had three bogeys on the front nine.

He reclaimed the lead late in his round with some nifty putting. He sank two putts longer than 30 feet, one for eagle on the par-5 15th and another for birdie on the par-4 16th, and wrapped up with the best two-round score at this tournament since Carl Pettersson's 125 a decade ago.

"When I finally convinced myself to hit a few putts, they started going in," Snedeker said. "Over 72 holes, you're going to have

stretches where balls don't go in the hole, you've got to be able to kind of overcome, be patient, wait for the long ones to fall, and luckily I made a couple coming down the stretch." Points, who has made only one cut since January and failed to reach the weekend in 19 of his 24 tournaments this season, had a strong front nine with three birdies and an eagle on the par-5 fifth hole, where he sank a 40-foot putt. He has finished in the top 20 at this tournament twice since 2014, and after starting far off the bubble at No. 214 on the points list, could play his way into the playoffs this weekend.

"Basically, I know this is possibly my last event of the year, so I haven't been grinding really hard," Points said. "It seems to be paying off." Pan, a 26-year-old from Taiwan, had birdies on three of his final four holes to climb the leaderboard. He sank a 20-foot birdie putt on No. 17 and an 8-footer on the 18th to match the best round of his young career. □

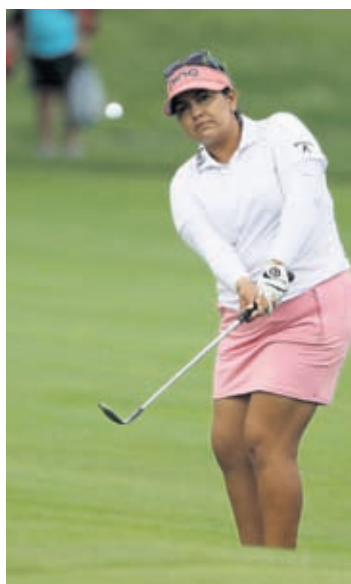
Salas shoots 62 to tie course record, take Indy LPGA lead

By **MICHAEL MAROT**
 AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Lizette Salas' waited 77 minutes to line up her 4-foot putt to take the lead Thursday at the Indy Women in Tech Championship.

She refused to let the weather delay get to her. When the 29-year-old California player returned to the course, she quickly rolled in the birdie putt, finished her round with another birdie at No. 18 and took a two-shot lead over Angel Yin and Nasa Hataoka with a course record-tying 10-under 62.

"I didn't even think about it the entire time," Salas said. "I was hanging out with Danielle (Kang) and she was giving me her silly dad jokes. So it definitely kept my mind off of it. I was really excited to be back and to finish off with a birdie, from off the green, was the



Lizette Salas chips to the 13th green during the first round of the Indy Women in Tech Championship golf tournament, Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018, Indianapolis.

icing on the cake."

It's the lowest score by a female player at the Brickyard Crossing.

Defending champion Lexi Thompson opened last

year's inaugural tournament with a 63, one shot off of Mike McCullough's 62 in the PGA Champions Tour's 1999 Comfort Classic.

But the way the saturated 6,456-yard course played Thursday, Salas needed virtually every putt of her career-best round to reach the top of the leaderboard. The morning starters took advantage of overnight rain by shooting right at the pins.

And nobody made a bigger early splash than Yin, the 19-year-old Californian who finished second in last year's rookie of the year race.

She opened with five straight birdies and shot 8-under 28 on the front nine. Only a par on No. 6 prevented her from becoming the sixth LPGA player to shoot 27 on nine holes. South Korea's Mi Hyang Lee did it most recently

at the 2016 JTBC Founders Cup.

Yin also tied the third-lowest nine-hole score in relation to par in tour history.

Her only bobble came with a bogey on No. 13 and she closed out her best career round with a birdie on No. 18.

"I have never done that before," she said. "I had nine putts, I think, on the front nine, which is incredible. I've never had that many little putts. But it just felt good. Everything was working."

Last year's runner-up for rookie of the year has never won an LPGA Tour title in her home country though she did win in a playoff at Dubai on the Ladies European Tour.

Everybody seemed to find their groove Thursday.

Eighty-eight of the 143 players shot under par and 54 were 3-under or better.

And with more rain in the forecast Thursday night and Friday, the scores could go even lower as a star-studded cast chases down Salas, Yin and Hataoka.

Four players, including Kang and Jane Park, are three shots behind.

Seven players, including last year's tournament runner-up Lydia Ko, are four shots back. Ko was tied with Yin for the lead — until she knocked her tee shot on the par-4, 16th into the water. She wound up with a double bogey and birdied the final hole to finish with 66.

Top-ranked Ariya Jutanugarn was eight shots back.

After taking a monthlong break to recover from physical and mental exhaustion, Thompson looked relaxed and comfortable in her return to the course. She shot 68. □

Federer, Djokovic, Halep win rain-delayed matches, reach QFs

By JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep made quick work of their rain-delayed matches Friday afternoon and advanced to the quarterfinals of the Western & Southern Open, facing the daunting challenge of playing a few hours later in extremely humid conditions.

Several days of rain turned the quarterfinals into an endurance test. Six men's and three women's singles matches were held over from Thursday because of rain.

Federer — the top player left in the men's bracket after No. 1 Rafael Nadal withdrew to get some rest — needed only 72 minutes to beat Leonardo Mayer 6-1, 7-6 (6), leaving him on course for yet another Cincinnati title. He's won a record seven despite missing the tournament the last two years because of injury.

Then, it was off for a little rest before an evening match against fellow Swiss player Stan Wawrinka, who advanced with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Marton Fucsovics. "Waiting around all day and hardly seeing any tennis obviously is never fun for the tournament and the fans," Federer said. "So we're happy that the tournament is back underway. Today I tried to really focus on just the one match, not thinking that there is possibly going to be two."

Djokovic's match against Grigor Dimitrov was suspended at the start of the third set on Thursday night.

He finished off the defending champion 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, maintaining his hopes of a first Cincinnati title.

Dimitrov didn't drop a set last year while winning his first Masters title in Cincinnati. He also won his first two matches this week in straight sets, a streak that was broken by Djokovic on Thursday night before the rains came and the match was suspended with Djokovic up 2-1.

"I wish it didn't rain, for sure, last night," Dimitrov said. "I just thought that even though I lost that second set, I was feeling well on the court."

"Today is a completely different day. The conditions are a little bit different. So yeah, everything came into play."

With each win, Djokovic gets closer to the chance he covets — another appearance in the title match. He's never won at Cincinnati, going 0-5 in title matches. It's the only ATP Masters 1000 event that has eluded him.

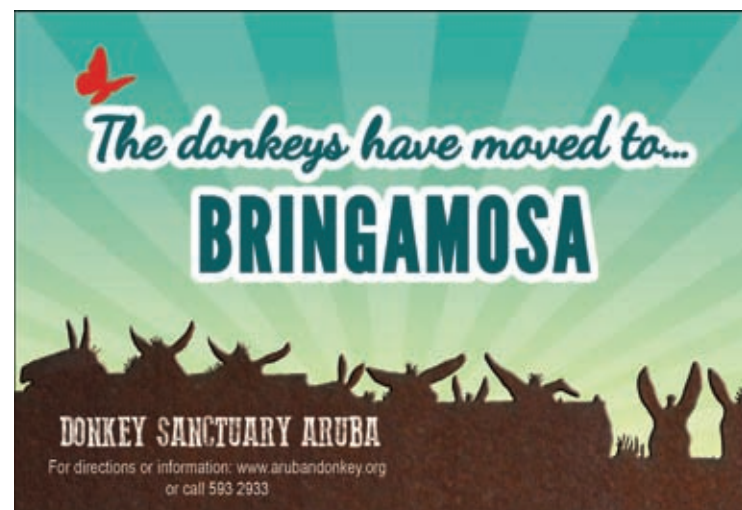
Djokovic acknowledges he would especially enjoy winning the title, which would make him the only player to win all nine ATP Masters events.

Also Friday, Juan Martin del Potro and Nick Kyrgios split two tiebreakers before Del Potro prevailed in the third set for a 7-6 (4), 6-7 (6), 6-2 win. Del Potro will face David Goffin, who upset Kevin Anderson 6-2, 6-4 to reach the Cincinnati quarterfinals for the first time in three tries.

On the women's side, No. 1 Simona Halep beat Ash-

leigh Barty 7-5, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals. Halep has faced the most challenges from the rain, with one match suspended overnight Wednesday in the third set and then her third-round match held over for a day as well.

Barty, who lost to Halep in last week's Rogers Cup semifinals in Montreal, committed 32 unforced errors to Halep's 17. Halep is seeking her first Cincinnati championship after losing in the finals last year and 2015. □



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Tackle this: NFL players benefit from regular yoga practice

By **TERRIN WAACK**

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Without stretching, New York Giants offensive lineman Chad Wheeler folds his 6-foot-7, 317-pound frame over far enough to place his palms flat on the ground. His knees are straight but not fully locked, because that's poor form, and he can comfortably hold himself there — he's that flexible. That's nothing for Wheeler. Like many NFL players, he does yoga.

"It's funny doing it as a team because a lot of guys haven't done it," Wheeler said. "It makes me feel proud in a way. Like guys that are way more athletic than me, I can bend better than them in certain positions."

Football players don't fit the mold of a yogi, someone who regularly practices yoga. They're large athletes with sculpted muscles from countless hours of lifting and conditioning. Most do not look capable of the contortions required of the ancient discipline, such as standing on one foot with the other propped up on their knee in a tree pose for an extended period without falling over.

Yet in recent years, the presence of yoga has grown in the NFL. The fast-paced, hard-hitting sport has accepted the more calming practice that emphasizes conscious breathing and body flow. Much like yin and yang, the two complement each other both mentally and physically.

"Obviously (yoga) helps with flexibility, what we call joint integrity, discipline, focus and balance," said Los Angeles Chargers Director of Football/Medical Services James Collins, an NFL athletic trainer for 31 years. "It has a lot of different entities to it. And one thing about professional football players is that if you explain something to them and give them the science and reasoning behind it, you can get them to buy into it."

Many teams haven't adopted yoga, but their play-

ers practice it individually, including Denver Broncos linebacker Brandon Marshall, Buffalo Bills placekicker Steven Hauschka and

helps with that, when we're doing one-legged poses and stuff like that. It helps with my balance."

Yoga helps with so much

more than a decade under former head coach Tom Coughlin. While she would work on arm and spine strength — spinal rotation

yoga."

Mental toughness is one of the six facets Lawrence teaches in her yoga class, along with strength, flexibility, balance, focus and breath. But she also has a six-week mindfulness course Coughlin had the medical staff and players go through. The well-being of the mind is just as important as the well-being of body.

"We spend a lot of time paying attention to the psychology of the athlete," said National Athletic Trainers' Association president Tory Lindley, who's also the Senior Associate Athletic Director for Health, Safety and Performance and Director of Athletic Training Services at Northwestern University. "That mind-body connection is critical."

On the field and off it.

In 2003, Jacksonville Jaguars linebacker Keith Mitchell sustained a career-ending injury. It came after seven years in the NFL, mostly spent with the Saints. He was lost, saying he showed signs of depression and had suicidal thoughts, until he found yoga.

Mitchell credits meditation and conscious breathing for getting him through the tough time. Now, he's a yoga instructor and hopes the practice grows in the NFL because he wishes he had done it as a player.

"The game, I always say, is 80 percent mental," Mitchell said. "So anything we can do to reboot the mind — I call it a meditation and I teach it as a mind practice — that's just going to make you even more impactful, more effective on your endeavors."

Many players do it for the mental aspect alone, saying yoga gets their mind right and prevents overthinking. It forces them to be in the moment, otherwise there's no way they'd be able to accomplish some of the poses, which make them feel better physically.

One thing leads to another, much like the flow of a good sun salutation — moving from one pose to another. □



In this July 28, 2018, file photo, Dallas Cowboys offensive tackle La'el Collins, left and running back Ezekiel Elliott, center, listen to yoga instructor Stacey Hickman, right, as the team does some flexibility exercises at NFL football training camp in Oxnard, Calif.

Associated Press

New York Jets quarterback Sam Darnold.

The Giants, Jacksonville Jaguars, New Orleans Saints and Chicago Bears offer it to their players on recovery days. Others make it a team activity: the Chargers, Cleveland Browns and Dallas Cowboys.

"I was going into it expecting to tell them all the reasons why they should be practicing yoga and why it's so beneficial," said Kalleen Lugo, the Chargers' yoga instructor. "They're just like, 'You're preaching to the choir, girl. We know.'"

PHYSICAL BENEFITS

Getting ready in his pass-rush stance, New York Jets defensive lineman Leonard Williams has his legs spread, knees bent and feet staggered. He leans forward with a hand on the ground. That's how he stays until the ball is snapped, holding his 6-5, 302-pound body in the three-point stance.

"For my position, you can get knocked off," Williams said. "When we're playing double teams, we got to stunt and do stuff, so it's like sometimes we have to be on one foot, plant and go somewhere. I feel like yoga

more than balance, and flexibility.

Collins, who's also the Professional Football Athletic Trainers' Society president, said yoga is great for multidirectional joints such as the elbows, wrists, ankles, hips and shoulders. Regular stretching is linear and doesn't help strengthen those areas.

Yoga also keeps muscles pliable and allows them to recover faster.

"At minimum, doing it helps maintain what you have," Collins said. "Especially as an athlete and a football player, as he's going through a season and his bodies getting beat up, everything starts to shut down — 'Boy, I feel stiff. I'm sore. I can't do this.' But if you're doing things throughout the season, like yoga, to help maintain what you've established with your body, that helps you get through the season, helps reduce your chance of injury and things of that nature."

Each player — position, really — is different, too.

Gwen Lawrence, founder of Power Yoga for Sport, has been teaching athlete-focused yoga for 25 years and taught the Giants for

— for a quarterback, she would focus more on the neck, hips and wrists for a lineman. It comes down to releasing tension and building strength in overworked parts of the body.

"I didn't realize once I got the hold of it how much stronger I felt," Giants linebacker Jordan Williams said. "I wasn't doing anything but using my body weight, and I felt so much stronger."

MENTAL BENEFITS

Bending to the side, Detroit Lions running back Ameer Abdullah reaches for a block on the floor. He then lifts his other legs straight out so he is parallel to the ground and extends his free arm upward.

Each limb is stretched out straight, as he breathes through the difficulty of holding yoga's half-moon pose.

That's where the mind-over-matter mentality comes in. "They need to be trained when they're in a tough situation, they can't just bail," Lawrence said. "A lot of times they'll be like, 'Ah, this is too hard. This hurts,' and they'll jump out of that. You can't do that in a game, and you can't do that in

Brady sharp in preseason debut as Patriots top Eagles 37-20

By The Associated Press
FOXBOROUGH, Mass.

(AP) — Tom Brady moved the New England Patriots with ease in their Super Bowl rematch against the penalty-prone Eagles, winning 37-20 with a little help from running back James White and fifth-round draft choice Ja'Whaun Bentley. In his first action since losing in the NFL title game to Philadelphia, Brady completed 19 of 26 passes for 172 yards and two touchdowns on Thursday night to help stake New England (2-0) to a 27-7 halftime lead.

Super Bowl MVP Nick Foles left in the second quarter with a shoulder injury after a strip sack that Bentley recovered and ran 54 yards for a touchdown.

White caught six passes for 61 yards, including a 20-yard touchdown, and also ran for 31 yards in the first half of the Patriots' 37-20 victory. The Eagles (0-2) had five penalties for 50 yards in the first quarter — including two for lowering the head to initiate contact and one for hitting a defenseless receiver — and 97 penalty yards in all.

After sitting out last week's exhibition season opener, Brady led New England to scores on four of the six series he played.

REDSKINS 15, JETS 13
LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Sam Darnold threw an interception and showed some of the growing pains of a rookie quarterback in his



New York Jets quarterback Sam Darnold (14) is sacked by Washington Redskins defensive tackle Da'Ron Payne (95) during the first half of a preseason NFL football game Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018, in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

first preseason start for New York, which lost to Washington on a last-second field goal by Dustin Hopkins. Darnold threw an interception, took two sacks and had a couple of balls batted out of the air. It was a far cry from the impressive debut in which the third overall pick went 13 of 18 for 96 yards for the Jets (1-1) and looked like the front-runner to win New York's starting QB competition.

The former USC star played the entire first half before

giving way to veteran Teddy Bridgewater. The former Vikings quarterback had his own inconsistencies, going 10 of 15 for 127 yards, a touchdown and an interception.

Alex Smith was 4 of 6 for 48 yards in one series, his only work so far in the preseason for the Redskins (1-1). Hopkins made all five of his field-goal attempts, including a 40-yarder as time expired to win it.

PACKERS 51, STEELERS 34
GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) —

Aaron Rodgers needed just one drive to look at home in his first action at Lambeau Field in almost a year. Rodgers connected with tight end Jimmy Graham for an 8-yard score, and Tramon Williams had a 25-yard interception return for a touchdown on the first play from scrimmage of Green Bay's win.

Five minutes after throwing the pick, Mason Rudolph found JuJu Smith-Schuster for a 4-yard touchdown pass for Pittsburgh (1-1).

Rudolph, who is competing with Joshua Dobbs for a backup job, was just 5 of 12 for 47 yards in playing the first half.

Dobbs didn't look much better after throwing a 22-yard interception returned for a touchdown by rookie cornerback Josh Jackson in the third quarter for the Packers (2-0). But Dobbs finished strong and connected with rookie receiver James Washington for two second-half touchdowns. □

AP source: Browns, Dez Bryant still talking but no deal

By TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Dez Bryant and the Browns are in a holding pattern.

The free agent wide receiver concluded his visit with Cleveland on Friday without agreeing to a contract, but "conversations continue" between the sides, a person familiar with negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

A three-time Pro Bowler

during eight seasons with the Dallas Cowboys, Bryant and agent Kim Maile met with Browns officials at team headquarters Thursday. The discussions carried over to a second day, ending with a promise to stay in touch.

It's not known if Bryant has left town. The Browns host the Buffalo Bills in an exhibition game Friday night.

One of the NFL's top receivers, the sometimes temperamental Bryant was cut by Dallas in April. Although the Browns are coming off

a 0-16 season, Bryant is intrigued about joining them. The 29-year-old reached out to general manager John Dorsey after watching the team on HBO's "Hard

Knocks." Bryant is also friends with wide receiver Jarvis Landry, a three-time Pro Bowl selection with Miami who came to Cleveland in a trade.

The Browns have significantly upgraded their talent and there is renewed optimism about a franchise that hasn't made the playoffs since 2002. □

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Profar starts triple play and homers, Rangers rally past LAA

By The Associated Press
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Jurickson Profar started an especially rare triple play and homered to help Texas rally from an early five-run deficit for a victory over Los Angeles.
 Rowned Odor singled home the go-ahead run in the eighth after an out call that would have ended the inning was reversed. Nomar Mazara went deep in his return from the disabled list, and Joey Gallo also homered for the Rangers. Texas turned the sixth triple play in franchise history in the fourth. With the bases loaded, David Fletcher hit a low liner toward third base that Profar picked on a short hop. Playing near the bag, Profar stepped on third to force out Eric Young Jr. and then tagged Taylor Ward, who had stumbled off the base into foul territory. Profar then



Los Angeles Angels first baseman Albert Pujols stands ready as Texas Rangers' Jurickson Profar leads off of first base during the third inning of a baseball game, Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

threw to Odor, and the second baseman tagged Kole Calhoun between first and second.
 It was the majors' first triple play without retiring the batter since June 3, 1912, when the Brooklyn Dodgers turned the trick against the Cincinnati Reds.

RAYS 3, YANKEES 1
NEW YORK (AP) — Rookie left-hander Adam Kolarek pitched out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the ninth inning to lift Tampa Bay over New York to win its first series at Yankee Stadium since 2014. Tampa Bay had lost 12

straight series in the Bronx, a record since the ballpark opened in 2009.
 The Rays' bullpen mostly cruised following Blake Snell's five sharp innings until Sergio Romo allowed consecutive singles to Didi Gregorius and Gleyber Torres in the ninth — Torres' bloop ended his 0-for-17 skid. Romo walked Neil Walker on four pitches, then was replaced by Kolarek, a side-arming lefty who earned his first career save.
 Tommy Pham helped the Rays jump on Masahiro Tanaka (9-3) with an RBI double during a two-run first inning, and Snell (14-5) and the bullpen took over from there.
TWINS 15, TIGERS 8
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Logan Forsythe had a career-high five hits and Jorge Polanco drove in four runs as Minnesota outslugged De-

troit. The teams combined for seven homers, with Polanco's three-run shot accounting for one of three by the Twins. Miguel Sano and Ehire Adrianza also went deep for Minnesota, which broke the game open with a seven-run sixth inning.
 Forsythe raised his batting average to .449 (22 for 49) since joining the Twins in a trade that sent Brian Dozier to the Dodgers.
 Minnesota chased Tigers lefty Francisco Liriano (3-8) in the second. A two-run, opposite-field homer by Sano ended Liriano's night after he allowed eight runs, four earned.
ROYALS 6, BLUE JAYS 2
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Lucas Duda homered, Rosell Herrera had three hits and Kansas City beat Toronto after a long rain delay to split their four-game series.

INTENTIONAL PLUNKINGS
Continued from Page 17
 Mostly, though, players and coaches around the game seem to want nothing to do with this murky unwritten rule.
 The Miami right-hander sparked a benches-clearing fracas in Atlanta when he drilled Acuna in the elbow with the first pitch of a game Wednesday. Acuna had homered leading off three consecutive games and gone deep four times in the first three games of the series against the Marlins.
 Acuna had a CT scan that revealed his elbow was normal, and X-rays also were negative. He was back in Atlanta's lineup Thursday night against Colorado.
 Urena claimed he was just pitching Acuna inside and missed his spot with a "bad pitch." He was suspended six games and fined an undisclosed amount on Thursday.
 The Braves — as well as the game's umpires — believed the plunking was intentional. Braves All-Star Freddie Freeman said it "was just completely classless on Jose Urena's part," and manager Brian Snitker was near the front of a line

of Atlanta players charging out of the dugout toward the mound.
 "I'm not sure I've ever felt like that in a baseball uniform," Snitker said.
 At least one prominent baseball voice thought Urena would be right to intentionally drill Acuna, though. Hernandez, the 1979 NL co-MVP, said during the Mets broadcast Wednesday night that in this case, "you got to hit him."
 "They're killing you," Hernandez said. "You lost three games. He's hit three home runs. You got to hit him. I'm sorry, people aren't going to like that. You know, you got to hit him, knock him down."
 Hernandez's words weren't well received by the Braves. Reliever Peter Moylan tweeted that Hernandez was a "clown," and Hall of Famer Chipper Jones tweeted that the comments were "waaay off base!"
 "So by this way of thinking, Jacob deGrom should get drilled cuz he's the hottest pitcher on the planet? NO!" Jones wrote.
 Players and coaches around the majors were asked about intentional plunkings Thursday, and



Atlanta Braves' Ronald Acuna Jr. (13) is tended to by a member of the training staff as Ozzie Albies talks to him after Acuna was hit by a pitch from Miami Marlins starting pitcher Jose Urena during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

it's clear that Hernandez's opinion falls among the minority.
 Yankees manager Aaron Boone said Urena's pitch "seemed pretty blatant to me." "It had a bad look to it," he said.
 Rays veteran Kevin Kiermaier thinks plunkings have a time and a place. He recalled being a rookie when Tampa Bay unintentionally hit Yankees star Derek Jeter twice in the same game. Kiermaier was the first batter up for Tampa Bay the next

inning. "I knew I was going to get thrown at," Kiermaier said. "Guy ended up missing. I had no problem with it. He got thrown out, whatever." But Kiermaier also suspects at least one pitcher has thrown at him intentionally because the speedy center fielder tried to bunt for a hit in the first inning of a game, and that experience infuriated him. Kiermaier, who is expecting a child in November, doesn't want any part of pitchers throwing at him

for just playing the game. He called Urena's pitch "classless." "You're hitting good, and they want to hit you to hit you, then I got a problem with that," Kiermaier said. Tigers manager Ron Gardenhire said he would've preferred umpires leave Urena in the National League game, rather than eject him. "That would have been a little more punishment, because he's got to bat," Gardenhire said, adding that "I would be mad enough if I were the manager, I might start (Urena) tomorrow and lead him off just so they can smoke him and knock him out just because he did something so stupid." Added Angels manager Mike Scioscia, the longest tenured manager in the majors: "Throwing at somebody with intent should not be part of this game." Retired seven-time All-Star Michael Young said on Twitter that "you don't drill people for doing their jobs" and "that's not old school." He also said the concept of brushback pitches — throwing a fastball inside to scare a batter off the plate and make him uncomfortable — doesn't work against major league hitters.

Rockies end Acuna's HR streak, beat Braves 5-3

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Colorado snapped Ronald Acuna Jr.'s home run streak and Atlanta's five-game winning streak, rallying for three unearned runs in the ninth inning to beat the Braves 5-3 on Thursday night.

David Dahl homered in the third and capped the winning rally with a two-out, two-run single off Brad Brach (1-3). The Rockies took advantage of an error by shortstop Danby Swanson leading off the ninth to win for the fifth time in six games.

One night after being plunked in the left arm by Miami's Jose Urena, Acuna was back in the lineup looking to extend his homer streak to six games. Wearing a red protective guard, the 20-year-old slugger received a standing ovation his first time up and lined the second pitch — one more than he saw the previous game — into center field for a single, extending his hitting streak to nine games.

That was the highlight of his night. Acuna finished 1 for 4, lining out to right in the eighth in his last chance to become the first player in Braves franchise history to homer in six straight games. Seunghwan Oh (5-3) earned the win and Wade

Davis worked a scoreless ninth for his 33rd save.

NATIONALS 5, CARDINALS 4 ST. LOUIS (AP) — Bryce Harper had three hits and drove in three runs, and a beleaguered bullpen held on as Washington snapped a four-game losing streak. The Nationals won for just the third time in their last 10 games and snapped the Cardinals' season-high, eight-game winning streak. Tanner Roark (8-12) gave up four runs, three earned, in six innings.

A bullpen that had blown two leads to start the losing streak took care of the rest. Justin Miller pitched two scoreless innings and Koda Glover earned the save in the first opportunity since Ryan Madson was placed on the disabled list on Tuesday.

Just two of the four runs Luke Weaver (6-11) allowed in his 3 2/3 innings were earned. He gave up seven hits, including two to Roark, who scored both times.

METS 24, PHILLIES 4, 1ST GAME

PHILLIES 9, METS 6, 2ND GAME

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Rhys Hoskins hit a three-run homer, Scott Kingery had a solo shot and Philadelphia beat New York to split their doubleheader.

In the first game, Jose Bautista hit a grand slam and had a career-high seven RBIs as the Mets set a franchise record for runs, prompting the Phillies to use two position players to pitch the final three innings of a 24-4 rout.

The Mets kept on hitting in the nightcap with three straight doubles on Zach Eflin's first four pitches. Michael Conforto's two-run double made it 2-0.

But then Hoskins crushed one high off the foul pole to give the Phillies a 3-2 lead in the bottom half against Steven Matz (5-10), just activated from the disabled list. Hoskins, who went deep in both ends of the twin-bill, has 11 of his 25 homers since the All-Star break — and three in the last four games.

In the opener, Corey Oswalt (2-2) allowed four solo homers in six innings, Amed Rosario hit a leadoff homer and had three RBIs and the Mets took advantage of four errors to score 11 unearned runs.

CUBS 1, PIRATES 0

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jon Lester pitched six innings to win for the first time in just over a month and Ian Happ homered as Chicago beat Pittsburgh.

Lester (13-5) allowed five hits, struck out eight and



Colorado Rockies' David Dahl watches his two-run single during the ninth inning of a baseball game to give the Rockies a 5-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

had no walks while improving to 3-1 against the Pirates this season. His previous victory came July 15 at San Diego and he had gone 0-3 with a 10.32 ERA in five starts since the All-Star break.

Steve Cishek, Carl Edwards Jr. and Pedro Strop each pitched one inning to complete the six-hitter. Strop hit David Freese with a pitch with two outs in the ninth but converted his 10th save in 13 opportunities.

Happ connected with one out in the fourth inning off Ivan Nova (7-7) for his 13th home run, a drive deep into the right-center seats that was the game's only

extra-base hit. There was a fair share of cheers while Happ rounded the bases as he is from suburban Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, PADRES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Clay Buchholz pitched a five-hitter, David Peralta hit a three-run homer and Arizona beat San Diego in the opener of a four-game series. Buchholz (6-2) allowed a leadoff double to Travis Jankowski but retired the next 13 batters he faced. Hunter Renfroe homered in the eighth inning before Buchholz retired the side in the ninth en route to his 10th career complete game. □

FOX Sports MLS broadcast will feature first all-female crew

By ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

The FOX Sports broadcast of Sunday's Major League Soccer match between D.C. United and the New England Revolution will feature an all-female on-air crew for the first time.

The group will include play-by-play announcer Lisa Byington, analyst Danielle Slaton and sideline reporter Katie Witham at D.C. United's new stadium.

It is the first time any network has aired an MLS match with an all-female crew. It's also believed the

women are the first all-female trio to call a game among the top five men's professional leagues.

The broadcast comes at a time when women are making strides in soccer broadcasting in the United States and abroad.

Aly Wagner broke ground this summer as an analyst for FOX Sports' coverage of the World Cup in Russia, becoming the first woman to call a match for the men's tournament in English.

Other prominent female reporters showcased dur-

ing the World Cup were Viviana Vila for Telemundo, Vicki Sparks for the BBC and Claudia Neumann for ZDF in Germany.

Witham, who played soccer at Capital University, has been a sideline reporter and host for MLS shows on FOX since joining the network in 2017.

"I'm excited that we're finally here, in this moment," Witham told The Associated Press. "Hopefully, we can get it to the point where it's not such a news item and it's more the norm; where we eventually

get to that spot where we stop talking about gender, we just talk about who is best for the position. I think all women would appreciate that."

Slaton played for the U.S. women's national team and started her broadcasting career as an analyst with the Big Ten Network. She was part of FOX's broadcasting team for the 2015 Women's World Cup in Canada, and has been involved in broadcasts for the Chicago Fire and San Jose Earthquakes.

Byington is the veteran of

the group, having been with the BTN Network since 2007. She'll cover college football at BTN this fall and work on college basketball for FS1. Byington played soccer and basketball at Northwestern.

"We have an excellent team ready to call this match," FOX Sports Producer Shaw Brown said in a statement. "Collectively and individually, they have a strong connection to the game, and I hope each of them continues to get more and more opportunities." □

Birth control app highlights emerging health tech market

By **KELVIN CHAN**
 AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — The condom, the pill and now, the smartphone?

Natural Cycles, a mobile fertility app, this month became the first ever digital contraceptive device to win FDA marketing approval. Women take their temperatures and track their menstrual cycle on the app, which uses an algorithm to determine when they're fertile and should abstain from unprotected sex or use protection. In effect, it's a form of the rhythm or calendar method.

The Swedish startup says it's effective and lets women avoid side effects common with other methods like birth control pills. But reports of unwanted pregnancies and investigations by authorities in two countries in Europe, where it received EU certification in 2017, have raised questions about marketing what is essentially a health monitor as a contraceptive.

Natural Cycles boasts more than 900,000 users, and such fast growth underscores risks for regulators and concerns among health professionals as they grapple with the rapidly emerging market for mobile and digital health applications.



A woman demonstrates using the Natural Cycles smartphone app, in London, Friday, Aug. 17, 2018.

"Apps are incredibly popular and there's nothing inherently wrong about using tech to support our health," said Bekki Burbidge, deputy chief executive of the Family Planning Association, a British sexual health organization. "But they're also an area that is fairly unregulated and it can be hard to sort the good, evidence- and research-based apps from the bad."

The app is similar to hundreds of other period trackers already available, most of which are aimed at helping women conceive.

But FDA approval means it can be marketed as a mobile contraceptive, giving it an edge in the mobile medical apps market, which is forecast to grow to \$11.2 billion by 2025, up from \$1.4 billion in 2016, according to BIS Research. The makers of Natural Cycles acknowledge it's not 100 percent effective and some women might still get pregnant even if used perfectly.

The Food and Drug Administration regulates apps and gadgets that collect or track medical informa-

tion as medical devices, though it doesn't scrutinize many more that merely perform simple tasks like tracking calories.

Marketing of contraceptive apps needs to be extremely careful to ensure that women understand exactly what they're signing up for and the limitations, the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said in a statement.

The FDA gave its approval based on data from Natu-

ral Cycles involving 15,570 women who used the app for an average of eight months. The FDA said that if the app is used correctly all the time, 1.8 percent of women would get pregnant over one year. The "typical use" failure rate, which factors in human error, was 6.5 percent.

The birth control pill's failure rate is 9 percent, while for condoms it's 18 percent and 24 percent for fertility-awareness methods, but those figures are backed up by much more long-term data.

The company's founders, Elna Berglund and Raoul Scherwitzl, are a married couple who are both former physicists. Berglund was part of a team of scientists looking for the Higgs boson particle at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, in Switzerland. They pivoted from science to startups when they wrote the algorithm to help them have a baby and then developed an app to tap broader demand.

The app is free to download but the company charges \$10 a month to use it. Its claims were called into question in January, after Swedish regulators started investigating reports that 37 women who used it became pregnant anyway.

Associated Press



This undated image provided by The Kroger Co. shows an autonomous vehicle called the R1.

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — At a time when big-box retailers are trying to offer the same conveniences as their online competitors, the biggest U.S. grocery chain is testing the use of driverless cars to deliver groceries in a Phoenix suburb.

Kroger's pilot program launched Thursday morning with a robotic vehicle parked outside one of its own Fry's supermarkets in Scottsdale. A store clerk loaded the back seat with full grocery bags. A man was in the driver's seat

Kroger rolls out driverless cars for grocery deliveries

and another was in the front passenger seat with a laptop. Both were there to monitor the car's performance.

Under the self-driving service, shoppers can order same-day or next-day delivery online or on a mobile app for a flat rate of about \$6. After the order is placed, a driverless vehicle will deliver the groceries curbside, requiring customers to be present to fetch them. The vehicles will probably be opened with a numeric code.

Currently, Kroger is operating with Toyota Prius vehicles. During the next phase of testing in the fall, deliveries will be made by a completely autonomous vehicle with no human aboard. Cincinnati-based Kroger Co., is partnering with Nuro, a Silicon Valley startup founded by two engineers who worked on autonomous vehicles at Google.

"Our goal is to save people time, while operating safely and learning how we can further improve the experience," Nuro co-founder

Dave Ferguson said in a statement.

That is not the only venture Waymo has in metropolitan Phoenix. Waymo has been trying out a service where bus and light rail riders can order an autonomous car to their nearest transit stop. Employees with Valley Metro, the agency that manages Phoenix-area transit lines, are currently serving as test riders. The project, started earlier this month, has Waymo employees gathering data from test drives, the agency said.

Stocks jump as hopes rise for progress on China trade talks

By MARLEY JAY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks are higher Friday as investors hope for more progress in trade talks between the U.S. and China. The Wall Street Journal reported that the countries hope to resolve their dispute by November.

Industrial and basic materials companies and health care and technology firms are making some of the biggest gains. The report comes a day after China said it will send an envoy to Washington for the first trade talks between the countries since June.

Electric car maker Tesla is falling further on reports of a wider government investigation into the company and concerns about CEO Elon Musk's health.

KEEPING SCORE: After a morning of wobbly trading, the S&P 500 index was up 10 points, or 0.4 percent, at 2,851 as of 3:30 p.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 128 points, or 0.5 percent, to 25,687. The Nasdaq composite rose 10 points, or 0.1 percent, to 7,816. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks added 6 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,692.

The S&P 500 is up 0.6 percent this week after a series of big swings linked to worries about Turkey's currency crisis, China's economic growth, and hopes for trade talks between the U.S. and China. The concerns about China's economy have hurt technology companies in particular.

THE QUOTE: Marina Severinovsky, an investment strategist at Schroders, said stocks could rally if the U.S. and China make real prog-



In this April 24, 2018, file photo replicas of Arturo Di Modica's "Charging Bull" are for sale on a street vendor's table outside the New York Stock Exchange in New York.

Associated Press

ress toward a trade agreement. But stocks in emerging markets might make even bigger gains.

"The rally that could come, if there is a better outcome, would be in emerging markets," she said. "China has suffered pretty greatly ... the U.S. has held up pretty well."

The Hang Seng index in Hong Kong has fallen 13 percent since early June while the S&P 500 has risen over that time.

ON THE FARM: Agricultural equipment maker Deere posted stronger than expected sales and its stock rose 2.8 percent to \$141.23. The stock started lower after Deere disclosed a smaller profit than analysts expected and said rising

costs for raw materials and freight are affecting its business.

Construction equipment maker Caterpillar rose 2.7 percent to \$139.94 and engine maker Paccar added 2.5 percent to \$67.30.

THE BIG STORE: Nordstrom jumped 12.7 percent to \$58.94 after raising its annual profit and sales forecasts and posting better earnings and sales than analysts expected. It's been a mostly difficult week for department stores as Macy's and J.C. Penney both plunged after issuing their quarterly reports.

CHIPS CHOPPED: Chipmakers fell after two companies gave weaker forecasts for the third quarter. Nvidia said it no longer expects

much revenue from products used in mining digital currencies, and its stock fell 5 percent to \$244.52. Applied Materials slumped 7.5 percent to \$43.89.

While big names like Netflix, Facebook and Amazon slipped, Apple led technology companies higher overall. It rose 1.8 percent to \$217.08.

BAD NEWS PILEUP: The Wall Street Journal reported that the Securities and Exchange Commission started investigating electric car maker Tesla last year to determine if it made false statements about production of its Model 3 sedan.

The SEC is also reportedly looking into CEO Elon Musk's comments about possibly taking the compa-

ny private.

Tesla stock rose from about \$345 a share to about \$380 following Musk's tweet, which said Tesla could go private for \$420 a share. On Friday it dropped 9 percent to \$305.39.

Musk also gave an emotional interview to the New York Times about the stress he's experienced as the company tries to ramp up production. He said this year has been "excruciating" and described working up 120 hours a week, raising concerns about his health.

BONDS: Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.86 percent from 2.87 percent.

ENERGY: U.S. crude picked up 0.7 percent to \$65.91 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, added 0.6 percent to \$71.83 per barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline dipped 0.3 percent to \$1.98 a gallon. Heating oil inched up 0.1 percent to \$2.10 a gallon. Natural gas rose 1.3 percent to \$2.95 per 1,000 cubic feet.

METALS: Gold was little changed at \$1,184.20 an ounce. Silver fell 0.6 percent to \$14.63 an ounce. Copper added 0.5 percent to \$2.63 a pound.

CURRENCIES: The dollar dipped to 110.60 yen from 110.88 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1443 from \$1.1365.

OVERSEAS: The German DAX lost 0.2 percent and France's CAC 40 fell 0.1 percent. The FTSE 100 in Britain was little changed.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index added 0.4 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.4 percent. In South Korea, the Kospi gained 0.3 percent. □

Turkish lira resumes fall after Trump sanctions threat

By SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — The Turkish currency fell again on Friday, breaking a three-day quiet spell in the country currency crisis, after the United States threatened to impose new sanctions on

the NATO country.

The lira dropped about 5 percent, to about 6.11 per dollar, after U.S. President Donald Trump posted a tweet warning the country of more punitive measures over the continued detention in Turkey of American

pastor Andrew Brunson, an evangelical pastor who faces 35 years in prison on charges of espionage and terror-related charges.

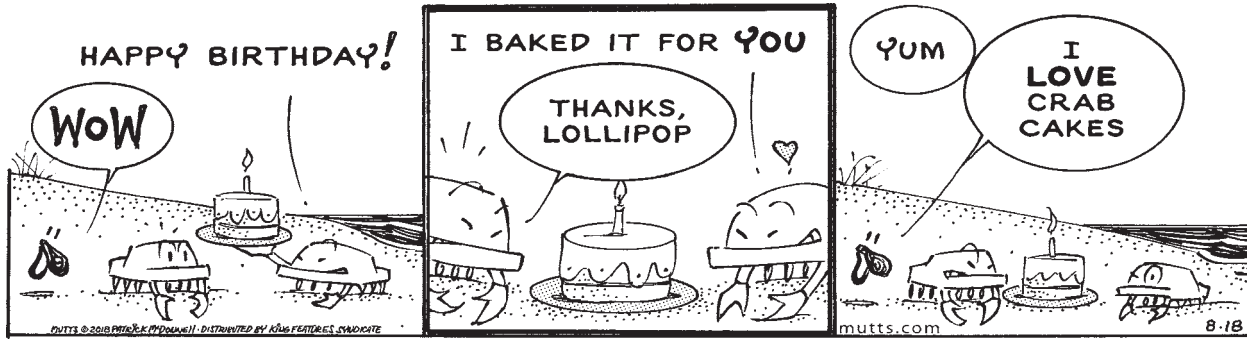
Turkey's trade minister, Ruh-sar Pekcan, said her government would respond to any new trade duties.

Dashing hopes for a quick solution to the dispute, a Turkish court on Friday rejected an appeal for the pastor's release from house detention. Upholding a lower court's decision earlier this week, it also ruled against lifting a travel ban

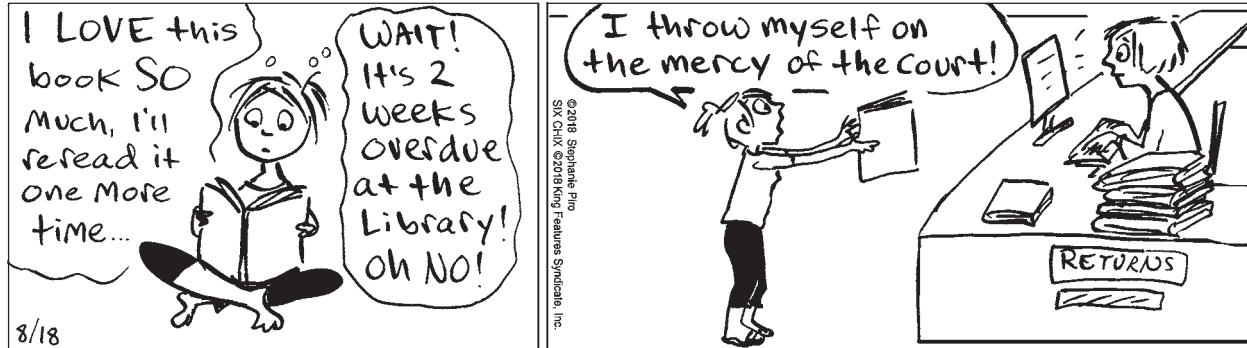
imposed on Brunson.

Meanwhile, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's has consolidated power over the central bank, and pushed for it to refrain from raising interest rates to support the currency, as experts say it should. □

Mutts



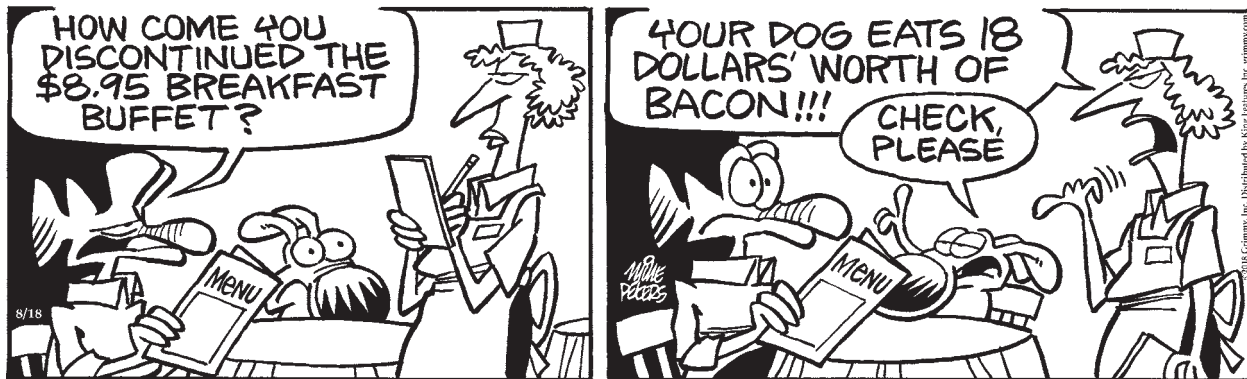
6 Chix



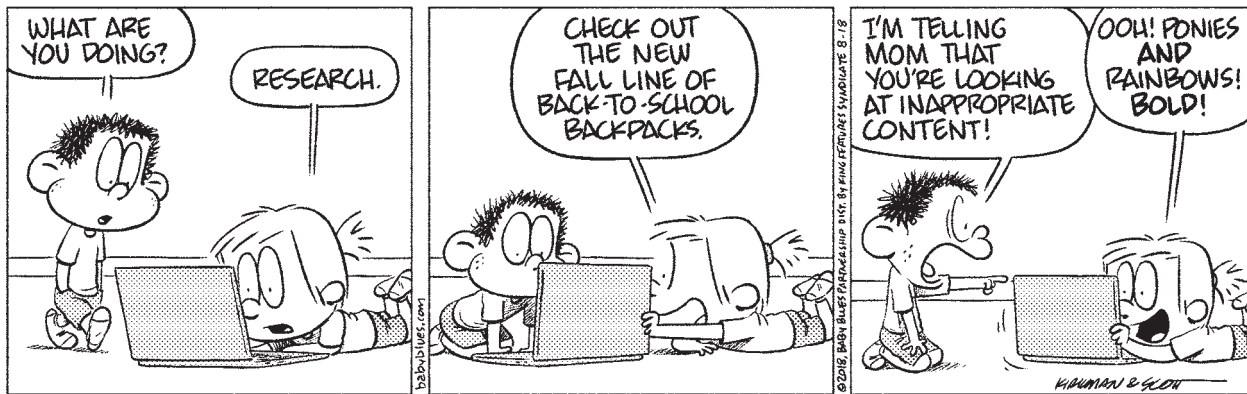
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	2		3	8	1		4	
			5					
						7	8	
					8	9	3	2
6	5	3	4					
	1	9						
					4			
	7		8	3	2		5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	6	4	7	9	3	5	8	2
5	8	7	2	4	1	9	3	6
3	9	2	6	8	5	4	1	7
2	5	1	3	7	9	8	6	4
8	7	9	5	6	4	1	2	3
4	3	6	8	1	2	7	9	5
7	4	8	1	2	6	3	5	9
9	2	5	4	3	8	6	7	1
6	1	3	9	5	7	2	4	8

ACROSS

- Shade of brown
- Benches & chairs
- Use a sieve
- Nose's detection
- Cone-shaped home
- Capable
- Lion's neck hair
- Sports building
- Nourish
- Drivers
- Sharp tools
- Detest
- "_ 54, Where Are You?" of old TV
- Circles around
- Speeches
- Parts of speech
- Juice flavor
- "Mamma _!"
- Pout
- Policeman's ID
- Uses a spade
- Cake ingredient
- Linear measurements
- Shower alternatives
- High schooler
- Small, but gutsy & aggressive
- Like a bull _ china shop
- Word attached to corn or oat
- Dangerous critter, for short
- Suer
- _-nots; those in poverty
- Beat on
- All _; listening
- Matures
- Steel-tipped spear
- Ginger cookie
- Result of a minor accident
- Go into
- Fellow
- Dick Smothers' brother

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16			
17					18					19			
	20		21						22				
			23					24	25				
26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33	
34					35					36			
37					38					39			
40				41					42				
43			44					45					
			46				47						
48	49	50			51	52	53			54	55		
56					57					58		59	
60					61					62			
63					64					65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/18/18

Friday's Puzzle Solved

JRS	BRADS	ODDS
JOEL	EERIE	DUAL
ESPY	SACRAMENTO	
TEE	FIRST	ASKEW
NEEDS	SRS	
ROTATE	SCRAWL	
AWARE	DECAY	RED
INNS	MOLAR	DAVE
DEC	DIGIT	RUPEE
DEBRAS	DONALD	
LAS	LOWER	
STRAP	SKIDS	OFA
PRESENTING	DUOS	
AUNT	BINGE	ONES
NETS	ARDOR	CDS

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8/18/18

- First man
- Advice to Nanette
- Begins
- Uncanny
- Makes fun of
- Portable shelter
- Painting of the ocean
- Hunting expedition
- Mountain goat
- Run away
- Kennedy & others
- Consider again
- Quaker product
- Feasted
- First phase
- Cheek coloring
- Protruding part
- "Out of _", sign on a broken machine
- Dustcloths
- Fails to include
- "Silent _"
- Impudent
- Storm or Sayers
- New York City
- "Chicago Tribune" and others
- "Nowhere _", Beatles song
- Mixer speed
- Friendliest
- _-bender; minor accident
- Chop finely
- Actor Everett
- In a _; fuming
- Kiln
- Money lent
- Family tree member
- Cobra's tooth
- German wife
- Secret agent

One of world's top urban forests threatened by tiny beetle



Trees line a street in a Johannesburg suburb, Sunday, Aug. 12, 2018.

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — One of the world's largest urban forests is under threat from a tiny beetle.

The polyphagous shot hole borer is thought to have made its way to Johannesburg from Southeast Asia on packing crates or through the trade in plant materials.

Trudy Paap, a forest pathologist at the University of Pretoria, discovered the beetle in the Pietermaritzburg Botanical Gardens last year. She published her discovery in the journal Australasian Plant Pathology, calling it part of "the surge in the global spread of invasive forest pests" because of globalization.

The beetle has since moved to Johannesburg, 320 kilometers (198 miles) away, and spread across its urban forest, which ac-

cording to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology initiative Treepedia has the world's sixth-largest green canopy cover.

Today, many of Johannesburg's estimated 6 to 10 million trees are dying, a crisis obscured only by the current winter season. Some of the infected trees have the telltale holes the 2-millimeter-long beetle makes in their bark.

"This beetle doesn't actually eat the trees," Paap said. Instead it carries a fungus that blocks the vessels that transport water and nutrients, "which ultimately leads to die-back and death of the tree."

Though scientists don't know just how many trees have died from the beetles' invasion, the outlook for Johannesburg is grim: "The city is going to lose a

lot of trees."

The trees do not have an evolved resistance to the polyphagous shot hole borer, unlike in Asia where the beetles naturally occur.

It is the older, more established trees that are at risk, said arborist Neil Hill. "So that's going to leave a gap in the landscape. And if we don't start to plant straight way with new trees that gap is going to become more and more of a concern as far as urban blight, pollution, aesthetic beauty." Hill has been experimenting with organic and chemical fungicides and pesticides and will continue in the spring when the trees are no longer in their dormant winter phase. □

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Group sues to expand protected orca habitat along West Coast

By GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — An environmental group sued President Donald Trump's administration Thursday to make officials move more quickly to protect the Pacific Northwest's endangered orcas.

The recent grieving of one whale for her dead calf and scientists' extraordinary attempts to save another from starvation highlight the urgency of their plight, the Tucson, Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity said as it filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Seattle.

There are just 75 orcas remaining in the Pacific Northwest population, the lowest number in 34 years. They're struggling with a dearth of chinook salmon, their preferred prey, as well as toxic contamination and vessel noise.

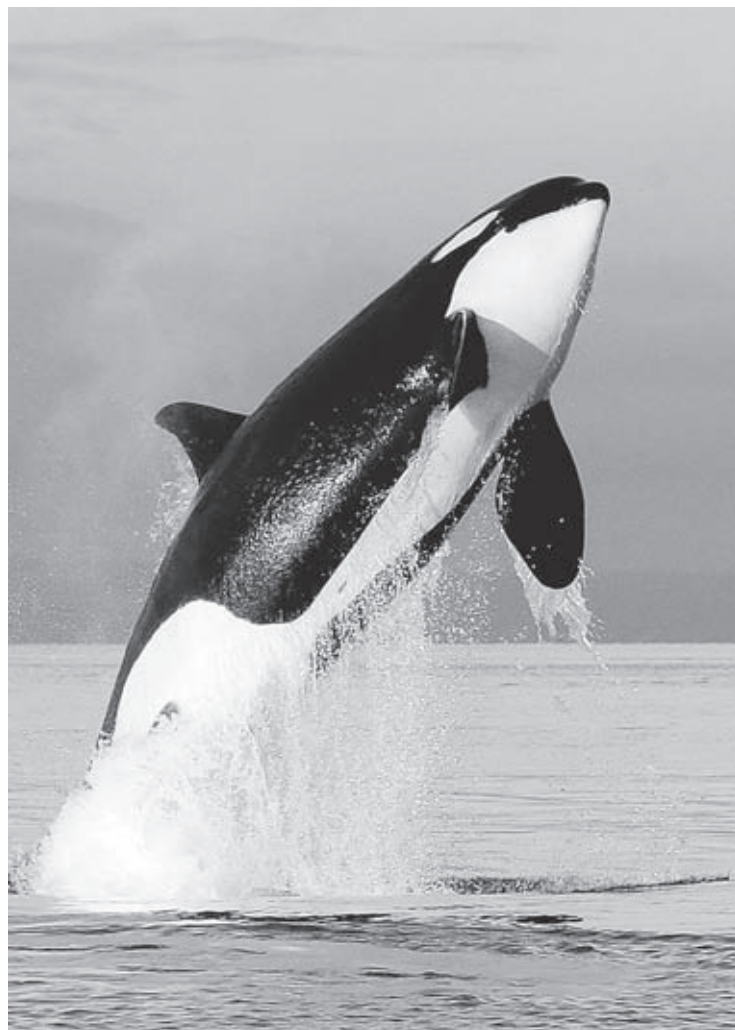
The lawsuit says the National Marine Fisheries Service has failed to act on the center's 2014 petition to expand habitat protections to the orcas' foraging and migration areas off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California — even though the agency agreed in 2015 that such a move was necessary.

The center says the protections would help reduce water pollution and restrict vessel traffic that can interfere with the animals.

"Time is running out fast for these magnificent, intelligent orcas," Catherine Kilduff, an attorney with the organization, said in an emailed statement.

"It's heartbreaking to watch them starving to death and mourning their dead calves.

Every day that Trump's



In this Jan. 18, 2014, file photo, an endangered southern resident female orca leaps from the water while breaching in Puget Sound, west of Seattle.

people delay action is a step toward extinction for these whales."

The three orca pods that make up the so-called southern resident population have not successfully reproduced since 2015. One orca, known as J35, drew international attention as she carried her dead newborn on her head for more than two weeks — covering more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) — in a vain effort to help it live and breathe.

She finally dropped the decomposing calf and returned to feeding and frolicking with her pod.

Another killer whale, 4-year-old J50, is so emaci-

her with an antibiotic dart and dropping live salmon from a boat into the water in front of her.

They didn't see her take any of the fish, and the pod has moved to open water off Vancouver Island, delaying any further intervention.

Michael Milstein, a spokesman for NOAA Fisheries, said Thursday the agency agrees the situation for the orcas is dire.

"We continue to work hard to protect and support the recovery," Milstein said.

The orcas that return to Puget Sound every summer are genetically distinct from other killer whale populations around the world and differ from some of the others in eating primarily salmon, rather than seals or other marine mammals.

They were listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act in 2005 after the center sued to get the status.

The following year, the fisheries service designated the inland waters of Washington state as critical habitat.

The designation means

federal agencies must ensure that activities they pay for, permit or carry out do not harm the habitat.

Nevertheless, the orcas' population has remained dangerously low, increasing the risk of inbreeding, which could further hurt their long-term survival.

In 2014, the center filed a petition seeking the critical habitat designation for an area from the northwest tip of Washington to Point Reyes, California, out roughly 47 miles (76 kilometers).

The agency accepted the petition and said it intended to develop and publish a rule for public comment in 2017, but none has been offered.

Milstein said in an email the work continues: "This effort involves the analysis of recent information about the ecology and behavior of southern resident killer whales."

On its website, the agency also said it must consider the benefits and impacts, including to the economy and national security, of designating particular areas. □

Associated Press

ated that researchers have taken unprecedented efforts to save her, injecting

Stinky 'corpse flower' in full bloom in California

SAN MARINO, Calif. (AP) —

Visitors were flocking to the Huntington Library in Southern California on Friday to get a whiff of a so-called corpse flower, known for the rotten stench it releases when it blooms.

The flower, nicknamed "Stink," began blooming unexpectedly on Thursday night, Huntington spokeswoman Lisa Blackburn said. "We thought we had a few more days to go. But it was ready and it was pretty

spectacular," she said.

Corpse flowers typically take 15 years to reach a mature blooming size, and blooms usually only last 24 hours. The foul odor the plants emit attracts insects for pollination. The plants don't emit the foul odor until they bloom.

The plant is one of the three corpse flowers expected to bloom within the next week. The two other flowers, nicknamed "Stunk" and "Stank," should bloom

in the next few days, Blackburn said.

The Huntington is seeing more visitors than normal because of the flowers, she said.

"The great thing about these flowers is they're so unusual-looking and have this reputation for smelling really bad, it gets all kinds of people really interested in botanical science," she said.

"It's just a charismatic plant." □

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Afghan rock band struggles to hit right note in Iran



In this July 20, 2018 photo, Afghan musicians Mohammad Rezai, Hakim Ebrahimi, and Soraya Hosseini, members of Arikayn rock band, play music at a furniture workshop in Eslamshahr, outside Tehran, Iran.

Associated Press

By AMIR VAHDAT
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The band gathers in a small carpentry shop on the outskirts of Iran's capital, with sawdust still in the air but the buzzing of the jigsaws now exchanged for the soft feedback of an amplifier. A drummer strikes his snare four times and Hakim Ebrahimi opens with the first dreamy notes of "Afghanistan," the sound of their Metallica-inspired rock ballad filling the air. The four rockers that make up the band, known as Arikayn, are Afghan refugees, and their struggles mirror those of millions of other Afghans who have fled to Iran during decades of war. They once had to sneak through a Taliban checkpoint to pay a gig in their home country, and they face discrimination in Iran, but they say that hasn't stopped them from playing the music they love.

"This is very hard for all of us, but when we play a song, we become the person that we want to be," bassist Mohammad Rezai said. Iran is home to one of the world's largest and most-protracted refugee crises. More than 3 million Afghans, including over 1 million who entered without legal permission, live in the Islamic Republic,

according to United Nations estimates. Afghan refugees began arriving in Iran in 1978, following their country's Communist military coup and the subsequent Soviet occupation. The occupation ended in 1989, giving way to years of civil war and ultimately a Taliban-controlled government. Then came the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks on New York and Washington, and the subsequent U.S.-led invasion targeting al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, whom the Taliban harbored.

Three of the band's four original members were born in Iran, including female guitarist and vocalist Soraya Hosseini, drummer Akbar Bakhtiary and Rezai. Ebrahimi came to Iran as a child. They formed the band Arikayn, which is Dari for "Lantern," in 2013.

"When I was a child, we used Arikayn to find our way in dirt alleyways at night," Ebrahimi said during a recent practice session at the carpentry studio. Arikayn's music recalls Metallica, not the speed-metal shredding of "Master of Puppets" but rather the introspective ballad of "Nothing Else Matters." Ebrahimi, who said his icon is Metallica frontman James Hetfield, evokes his guitar work in the band's

song "Afghanistan."

"Here is Afghanistan, human's life is cheap; the way to heaven is from here, killing a human is easy here," he sings.

By day, Ebrahimi works in the carpentry shop to support himself. Other band members have day jobs as well, though Hosseini relies on help from her mother. Like other Afghans, they face challenges in finding work in a country that had high unemployment even before President Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal and began restoring sanctions.

Afghans also face discrimination in Iran. The band says they were turned away from a once-popular Tehran concert series because they were immigrants. Like others in Iran's vibrant arts scene, they must contend with hard-liners who view Western culture as corrupt and object to women performing in public. At one of only two Tehran concerts the band gave, at Tehran University, Hosseini said she was not allowed to play her guitar on stage, and was only able to sing background vocals.

"They did not tell me directly that I cannot play the guitar on stage, but they made me understand," she said. "I felt strange because it was my first time

on stage. I was stressed out that I might ruin it."

That stress only multiplied when the band decided to play a show at a July 2015 music festival in Bamyan, Afghanistan, where Ebrahimi lived until age 10. They had looked forward to performing beneath the ruins of the great Buddha statues of Bamyan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site destroyed by the Taliban in

March 2001. To get to the area, some 130 kilometers (80 miles) west of Kabul, however, the band had to cross through Taliban-held territory. They described passing through various Taliban checkpoints, keeping their eyes down. But at one, an accompanying Afghan documentary filmmaker's errant glance caught the attention of a Taliban fighter. □

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Wahlberg and Berg's 'Mile 22' is a dizzying assault

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Mark Wahlberg's "Mile 22" character James Silva has a tick where he snaps a yellow rubber bracelet against his wrist. He does this many, many times throughout this all-out assault of a movie, which seems to have been shot and edited with the singular purpose of leaving the audience confused and disoriented at every turn. This restless camera can't even hold still during a simple scene of dialogue, changing focus every two seconds — eyes, off-center face, hands, blood pressure monitor, and on and on.

That snapping sound is actually one of the more orienting things. Ah yes, you think, it's Silva calming his mind, which is apparently quicker than most people's resulting in both extreme intelligence and extreme anger, or so we're told in a similarly frenetic opening credits sequence with a lot of voiceovers. His mother gave him the bracelet so that he could snap it as a



This cover image released by STXfilms shows Mark Wahlberg in a scene from "Mile 22."

reminder to pause. While that's nice for Silva, it's also incredibly annoying for the audience.

On a broad scale, this movie is about counterterrorism efforts and trying to predict the unpredictable. There's a nuclear substance at large which, if released into the atmosphere, would be like "Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined" and all you need is "a kid with an envelope" on a street corner to release it. A man, Li Noor (the incredible mari-

tal arts stuntman Iko Uwais) comes to a U.S. Embassy saying he has the locations of the missing substance but will only give them up in exchange for asylum. So Silva and his paramilitary CIA unit, including Lauren Cohan, Ronda Rousey and Carlo Alban, all quit their jobs and become "ghosts" to take on the extremely dangerous operation of transporting Li 22 miles to a plane that will get him to the U.S. Overwatch is a "higher form of patriotism,"

John Malkovich's director-type opines to no one in particular.

"Mile 22" is one of the more disappointing collaborations between Wahlberg and director Peter Berg, who also made "Lone Survivor" (a similar assault), the self-aggrandizing "Patriots Day," and the quite thrilling and underappreciated "Deepwater Horizon." "Mile 22" is the first that wasn't ripped from the headlines. It's a clear attempt at a franchise, and

while this shadowy unit of operatives seems as fair game as any, Silva is a horrifyingly bad character, poorly developed and with no redeemable qualities who only ever seems to be shouting insults at all of his co-workers. They never seem all that fazed by it though. Is Silva just a manic they tolerate? Did they all realize he's all bark and no bite? Doesn't that undermine his character from the get-go?

The script has a few surprises in store, but it's all too little too late even at a brisk 90 minutes. For a movie so excited to tell a story about the CIA's "most highly-prized and least understood unit," it sure doesn't do much to ensure you leave any more informed than you were when you sat down.

"Mile 22," an STX Entertainment release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "strong violence and language throughout." Running time: 90 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

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SUN & HOL 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35
MONTHU 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30
FRI 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30 | 10:40
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SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30

KODI SMIT-MCPHEE | NATASSIA MALTHE
ALPHA
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MONTHU 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15
FRI 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15 | 11:30
SAT 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15

JASON STATHAM | RUBY ROSE
MEG
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MONTHU 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25
FRI 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 11:55
SAT 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 11:55
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EWAN MCGREGOR | HAYLEY ATWELL
Christopher Robin [PG]
MONTHU 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00
FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20
SAT 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

MILA KUNIS | KATE MCKINNON
SPY WHO DUMPED ME
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]
MONTHU & SUN 4:35 | 9:20
FRI-SAT 4:35 | 9:20 | 11:50

JOEY KING | JAVIER BOTET
SLENDER MAN
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MONTHU & SUN 9:30
FRI-SAT 9:30 | 11:40

TOM CRUISE | HENRY CAVILL
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE FALLOUT [PG-13]
MON-FRI 6:00 | 9:05
SAT-SUN 2:55 | 6:00 | 9:05

ADAM SANDLER | SELENA GOMEZ
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 4
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
MON-FRI 5:10 | 7:20
SAT & SUN 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20

DWAYNE JOHNSON | NEVE CAMPBELL
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Bob Mackie's designs for Cher, Carol Burnett up for auction



Fashion Costume Designer Bob Mackie poses with iconic designs, a scarlet red satin gown worn by Cher in 1975, and a mari-gold jersey jumpsuit worn by Cher between 1971-1976, left, in London, Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018.

Associated Press

Associated Press
LONDON (AP) — Bob Mackie-designed outfits worn by Cher, Carol Burnett, Diana Ross and other celebrities are going up for auction.

Nine-time Emmy Award winner Mackie designed the wardrobe for "The Carol Burnett Show" and has been creating outrageous outfits for Cher for decades.

The sale includes a mari-gold jumpsuit worn by Cher on "The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour" and a scarlet satin gown from the "Cher" show. There are also dresses won by Lauren Bacall, Raquel Welch and other celebrities.

Mackie says, when designing for stars, "I always try to enhance the image that they already have."

"You don't try to change anybody, you just try to make them look better than ever," he told The Associated Press on Thursday. Mackie still works with Cher, 51 years after they first met. He says that "even at her most naked, she never looked vulgar."

The 79-year-old American designer says he doesn't mind getting rid of some of his creations.

Miss America: Leadership bullied, manipulated, silenced me

By WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) —

The reigning Miss America says she has been bullied, manipulated and silenced by the pageant's current leadership, including Gretchen Carlson.

In a letter sent Friday to former Miss Americas, Cara Mund says she decided to speak out despite the risk of punishment.

Her letter is reminiscent of the movie "Mean Girls," in which characters Gretchen and Regina bully the heroine and make her life miserable. That's what happened to her in real life, Mund wrote. Gretchen Carlson is chairwoman of the Miss America Organization; Regina Hopper is its CEO. Her letter exponentially increased the turmoil surrounding the pageant three weeks before the next Miss America is to be crowned in Atlantic City.

"Let me be blunt: I strongly believe that my voice is not heard nor wanted by our current leadership; nor do they have any interest in knowing who I am and how my experiences relate to positioning the organization for the future," Mund wrote. "Our chair



In this Sept. 10, 2017, file photo, Miss North Dakota Cara Mund reacts after being named Miss America during the Miss America 2018 pageant in Atlantic City, N.J.

Associated Press

and CEO have systematically silenced me, reduced me, marginalized me, and essentially erased me in my role as Miss America in subtle and not-so-subtle ways on a daily basis. After

a while, the patterns have clearly emerged, and the sheer accumulation of the disrespect, passive-aggressive behavior, belittlement, and outright exclusion has taken a serious toll."

Mund said she's been left out of interviews, not invited to meetings and called the wrong name. When she obliquely hinted at trouble with pageant leadership in an interview earlier this

month with The Press of Atlantic City, Mund said she was swiftly punished by having her televised farewell speech cut to 30 seconds, and was told a dress she had been approved to wear in the traditional "show us your shoes" parade cannot be worn.

This year's competition will not include swimsuits, and pageant officials from at least 19 states have called for the current leadership to resign. There was no immediate response from The Miss America Organization or from Carlson and CEO Regina Hopper, who were singled out in Mund's letter. Mund said she was given three talking points to be made in every appearance: "Miss America is relevant. The #MeToo movement started with a Miss America, Gretchen Carlson. Gretchen Carlson went to Stanford." (Mund said she was allowed to mention that she went to Brown to show that both women were highly educated.)

"Right away, the new leadership delivered an important message: There will be only one Miss America at a time, and she isn't me," Mund wrote. □

Beyond 'The Walking Dead,' Lauren Cohan is ready for change

By ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Even battling zombies day in and day out can get repetitive. After eight seasons of fighting for her life on AMC's "The Walking Dead," Lauren Cohan knew she needed a change when she felt a little too comfortable with the job. That's why she's saying goodbye to the role, though producers are leaving the door open should she change her mind.

"Eight years is a really long time to be in those emotional depths and it's really fun for me because I never thought about drama as much when I started this career and I always kind of assumed I'd do like light fare," she told The Associated Press in a recent inter-

view. "This is a much better way of doing it," Cohan laughed.

Cohan, 36, will appear in the first half of season nine, premiering in October. She considers the offer to return "a gift." "There's a chance for me to still explore the Maggie character and it's going to be fun to see if that can be done," she said. She gave the show lots of props ("Walking Dead" is responsible for more than I can say") but is looking forward to new film and TV projects.

The first is "Mile 22," starring Mark Wahlberg and directed by Peter Berg with the hope of becoming a film franchise. It follows a secret CIA task force that must retrieve and transport an intelligence asset through

22 miles of hostile territory. It's fast-paced and intense, but also funny.

Cohan said the cast was encouraged to improvise in some scenes.

"It's fun to play the witty dialogue and I always love in Pete's movies how there are a lot of normal people with interesting conversations," she said. "It always feels like you're opening a window into real life."

Next, Cohan will act opposite Scott Foley in ABC's "Whiskey Cavalier," debuting in 2019.

"The hardest part is not laughing," she said. In the dramedy, Cohan plays another CIA operative but one who gets matched with Foley's superstar FBI agent to solve cases.

"They have this wonderful



In this July 26, 2018 photo, actress Lauren Cohan poses for a portrait in New York to promote her film "Mile 22."

Associated Press

'Moonlighting' vibe," she said. "I'm an emotional character with a steely exterior and the guys are

much more in touch with their feelings. It's funny! It's great. It's a really fun departure for me." □

Next mission for women with military service: Run for office

By LAURIE KELLMAN

BILL BARROW

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A dragon winds around a cherry tree in the tattoo across MJ Hegar's arm and back, over the shrapnel wounds she had, at one point, not wanted to see with her young children around.

But nine years after being shot down in Afghanistan, then winning a lawsuit against the federal government, writing a book and now running for a Texas congressional seat, Hegar isn't hiding much anymore. "I carry my service with me wherever I go," Hegar said in a telephone interview near her home in Round Rock, outside Austin. "We don't see my family and my childhood and my service as different chapters. It's all a package deal."

Hegar is part of a crop of female veterans running for Congress in this year's midterm elections. Almost all Democrats and many of them mothers, they are shaped by the Sept. 11 attacks and overseas wars, including the longest war in American history. Many are retiring from the military and looking for another way to serve the country. They're part of a record number of women running for seats in Congress, but in certain ways, they are a class apart.

The female veterans claim expertise in national security and veterans issues, with a track record of thriving in institutions dominated by men. Regardless of party, they cast themselves as the antidote to bitterly partisan politics — describing themselves as "mission-driven" and trained by the military to work toward a common goal.

"I flew 89 combat missions as a U.S. Marine. My 90th mission is running for Congress to take on politicians who put party over country," said Kentucky Democratic candidate Amy McGrath, the first female Marine to fly an F/A-18 in combat.

The increase in candidates



In this Jan. 12, 2018, file photo, Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., leaves in a T-6 World War II airplane after speaking at a rally in Phoenix.

with military experience is no accident, and the hopefuls are expected to be propelled by Democratic luminaries. Former Vice President Joe Biden, for example, is expected to campaign for McGrath, among others, according to officials close to them who spoke on condition of anonymity because the schedule is not set.

Two Democrats — Massachusetts Rep. Seth Moulton, a retired Marine Corps captain and Bronze Star recipient, and Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth, who lost her legs and partial use of an arm when her helicopter was shot down by a rocket-propelled grenade in Iraq

— have been instrumental in recruiting veterans to run for office.

Moulton said female veterans in his party carry a particular authority when talking to voters concerned about President Donald Trump's leadership.

"It's the year of the woman, but it's also the year of yearning for bringing integrity and honor back to politics," Moulton said. "We need Democrats with the credibility to tell people what's really going on."

The women are hardly the first to use their military service to their political advantage — men have been doing it for decades. One of the traditional

knocks against female candidates is "they aren't tough enough, they aren't strong enough, and they might not have the leadership skills," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

Not female candidates who are veterans, particularly of combat.

"They kind of automatically get that kind of respect as leaders; it's well-earned," Walsh said. "It's such a logical next step for people who are committed to this country and are committed to service."

But their campaigns highlight a set of political concerns specific to female veterans.

The candidates acknowledge that their extraordinary stories of trailblazing military careers could make it difficult for some voters to relate to them. Will they come off as too tough or hawkish? Is it possible for any candidate, male or female, to overemphasize his or her military background in the post-9/11 era?

McGrath, who retired as a lieutenant colonel, opened her campaign with an online video in which she wears a bomber jacket, a fighter jet in the background.

McGrath sees herself as a

bridge to male voters who "sort of see women as being weaker," she said in a telephone interview. "But yeah, I have to make an effort to reach out to women and make sure that they're not scared, or think that I'm too militant."

Out came a 30-second spot that mentioned the 89 combat missions — but focused on McGrath taking her three children to the pediatrician.

"I'm Amy McGrath and I approved this ad," she says, as her young son takes off down a hallway with his pants down. "Because I'd like to see the other guys running deal with this."

She upset popular Lexington Mayor Jim Gray in the Democratic primary and will take on Republican Rep. Andy Barr in November, a closely watched race considered competitive in a district Barr won by 22 points in 2016. Poised for the different calculus of the general election, Barr last week released an ad quoting McGrath saying of herself, "Hell yeah, I'm a feminist" and calling herself "a progressive."

"Seriously? Is that all you got?" McGrath retorted in a video response, sharing the screen once again with a fighter jet. But this time, she traded her bomber jacket for a denim one.

Much of Hegar's story was already public by the time she decided to challenge Republican Rep. John Carter in the Austin-area district, so she went for the full reveal — tattoos and all. Her video, "Doors," features the door of the helicopter in which she was shot down on her third tour of Afghanistan as a combat search and rescue pilot. Her medals, including a Purple Heart, play a role, as does Hegar's 2012 lawsuit against the federal government that forced it to repeal the ban on women in combat.

The spot also features an intimate detail: One of Hegar's first memories was of her father throwing her mother through a glass door. □



In this May 22, 2018, file photo, Amy McGrath, right, with her husband, Erik Henderson, waves to supporters after being elected as the Democratic candidate for Kentucky's 6th Congressional District in Richmond, Ky.

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